



South Korean Sgt. Kim Young Han plays a tire during the Eighth Army's Best Warrior competition on Thursday at Camp Casey, South Korea.

PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

Trump, Moon focused on North Korea summit goals

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart agreed to work closely to ensure the success of the planned U.S.-North Korea summit as they prepare for their own meeting Tuesday in Washington.

It will be the fourth time the leaders have met since both took office last year amid rising tensions over the growing nuclear threat from the North.

Trump and Moon Jae-in "exchanged views on various actions taken by North Korea," recently "in a nearly half-hour phone call on Sunday, according to South Korea's presidential office.



Trump

Moon is seeking to keep the recent dialogue with the North on track after Pyongyang threatened to scuttle the process in anger over U.S.-South Korea war games and what it called one-sided demands on denuclearization from Washington.

The South Korean president will try to play the role of mediator to try to narrow the gap between the U.S. and North Korean positions.

He and Trump will discuss detailed plans for the complete denuclearization of North Korea and a permanent peace settlement on the divided peninsula, a senior presidential aide said Friday.

"We expect them to discuss ways to guarantee a bright future for the North in return for its complete denuclearization," Nam Gwan-pyo told reporters on Friday.

SEE GOALS ON PAGE 11

Take it to the limit

Eighth Army's best tested in rain-soaked competition

By MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — The Eighth Army announced its best warriors Friday after a rain-soaked competition that saw about 35 soldiers shoot, ruck and swim to the top last week.

The six-day contest began with the Army's physical fitness test and a dip in the pool to test their water-survival capabilities. By mid-week, competitors had demonstrated their Army knowledge at a formal board, had shown

marksmanship under duress with a stress shoot and navigated across South Korea's hilly terrain in day and night.

On Thursday, they pushed through heavy rains in a functional fitness test that involved flipping tires, crawling on the ground and running laps while wearing gas masks. That was followed a couple of hours later by a 12-mile orienteering course across dark,

SEE BEST ON PAGE 5



Pfc. Samera Taylor participates in the competition.

PACIFIC

Navy: USS Ronald Reagan pilots resuming field carrier-landing practice

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Swift hands off leadership of Pacific Fleet to Aquilino in pier-side ceremony

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Justify's Triple Crown dream alive with victory » Back page

PACIFIC

Reagan pilots resume carrier-landing practice

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL Base, Japan — USS Ronald Reagan pilots are resuming field carrier-landing practice on the remote island of Iwo Jima, the Navy said Friday.

An announcement, which said the training was to start back up on Saturday, came a day after the service said it had paused Carrier Air Wing 5's practice for "operational reasons."

The day-and-night operations — which kicked off May 3 and were slated to run through May 13 before the delay — prepare and qualify pilots to land aboard aircraft carriers ahead of their upcoming deployment aboard the carrier.

After the land-based training, the pilots were to practice landing day and night aboard the Ronald Reagan, Lt. Cmdr Matt Knight, a Task Force 70 spokesman, told



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

An F/A-18E Super Hornet touches down during field carrier-landing practice.

Stars and Stripes last month.

The delay was attributed in part to allowing time for the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier to repair a "material

issue" that came up during "successful" weeklong sea trials, Knight said Thursday.

"The repair will result in a delay to the scheduled departure date for USS Ronald

Reagan and Carrier Strike Group 5," he added.

Knight did not provide further details about the issue or say when the carrier and its strike group would head out on patrol.

Most of the field carrier-landing practice is still planned to happen on Iwo Jima — known in Japan as Iwo To — though inclement weather could move it to Misawa Air Base in northern Japan; Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo; Naval Air Facility Atsugi in Kanagawa prefecture; or Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima, the Navy said.

Aircraft involved with the training include F/A-18E and F/A-18F Super Hornet strike jets, EA-18G Growler electronic warfare planes, E-2D Advanced Hawkeye early warning aircraft and C-2A Greyhound transports.

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USS Curtis Wilbur sailors celebrate US-Japan treaty at Black Ship Festival

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Curtis Wilbur arrived in the beach-resort town of Shimoda on Friday to help celebrate the 164th anniversary of the signing of a treaty that opened trade relations between Japan and the United States.

The annual Shimoda Black Ship Festival, which was scheduled to run through Sunday, commemorates the 1854 Japan-U.S. Treaty of Trade and Amity that followed Navy Commodore Matthew Perry and his squadron's arrival in the southeastern Shizuoka prefecture

city the year before.

This is the 79th year the people of Shimoda have hosted the Black Ship Festival, named after the term the Japanese gave to Western boats that began arriving in Japan as early as the 16th century, the Navy said.

This is the Curtis Wilbur's fourth visit to the city, and the second for the guided-missile destroyer's commanding officer, Cmdr. Simon McKeon.

"I'm very excited," he said. "The people of Shimoda were very nice and welcoming on the first visit, and we look forward to continuing the relations we've established in the past."

The goal of the festival is to "promote peaceful relations between the Japanese and American people," and tourists from throughout Japan flock to Shimoda each May to participate, the Navy said in a statement.

Curtis Wilbur sailors will engage with the community, visiting local elementary schools and participating in a beach volleyball and a tug-of-war contest, the Navy said. They also will take part in a parade and a memorial ceremony honoring five sailors killed during the Navy's first visit to the city.

Several other events were planned, including fireworks and a historical re-enactment with



GARRETT ZOPFI/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur departs Yokosuka Naval Base for the annual Black Ship Festival in Shimoda, Japan.

performers dressed as Perry and Japanese shogunate officials, according to festival leaders.

The Curtis Wilbur left Yokosuka for Shimoda on Thursday. It is unclear when it will return. The Navy said the ship is "on a regu-

larly scheduled deployment" in the 7th Fleet area "in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Paratroopers with the 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) jump out of a C-130 Hercules and drop to an artillery live-fire exercise at Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Friday.



Paratroopers prepare an M119 A3 Howitzer to be paraded to the ground.



Above: Soldiers provide security during the exercise. Right: Maj. Michael Centola, executive officer of the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, pulls his parachute toward his pack during Friday's drills.



Soldiers jump into live-fire exercise

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — It was raining soldiers on base Friday evening as more than 200 paratroopers with the 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) jumped out of C-130 Hercules transport aircraft and quickly prepared artillery to conduct a live-fire exercise.

During the drill — to prepare the brigade for this summer's exercises in Eastern Europe — sol-

diers paraded a Humvee and an M119 A3 Howitzer from about 1,000 feet above ground.

After landing and firing their artillery, the soldiers marched to battle positions and conducted another "attack" at night.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade, "Sky Soldiers," are the U.S. Army's contingency response force in Europe, providing rapid forces to Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

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Paratroopers prepare rounds for an artillery live-fire exercise at Grafenwoehr on Friday.

MILITARY

Swift hands over command of Pacific Fleet

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Adm. Scott Swift passed the baton of leadership for the U.S. Pacific Fleet to Adm. John Aquilino during a pierside ceremony here Thursday.

Aquilino most recently headed the Navy's Middle Eastern forces as commander of both the 5th Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command.

Swift announced in September that he would retire after learning he would not be nominated to lead U.S. Pacific Command in the wake of two deadly collisions last summer involving the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain.

Pacific Fleet commanders have typically been tapped to lead PACOM.

If Swift feels disappointment over being passed over for that promotion, he did not show it during a ceremony that primarily served as a farewell ahead of his July 1 retirement.

"This is my 14th change of command, and it seems like a good point to transition to something new," he told the audience.

"To finish my career here in the Pacific Fleet — the only fleet I have ever sailed in — headquartered in the city I was born, in a harbor of my father's first command, doing what I love, is something dreams are made of."



Adm. Scott Swift, right, turns over command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet to Adm. John Aquilino during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Thursday.

Adm. Harry Harris, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, praised initiatives by Swift to increase the Pacific Fleet's presence in the region, particularly with 3rd Fleet Forward, which gave the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet direct operational control of its ships as they crossed east over the international dateline.

Swift said that as he prepares to leave the Navy "it is not lost on me that there is still much work to be done."

Among the most significant challenges facing the Pacific Fleet today, he said, is the aftermath of the separate collisions of the destroyers Fitzgerald and Mc-

Cain, which left 17 sailors dead and some officers facing criminal charges.

"For all of us wearing the uniform, the greatest burden to service are the memories of those shipmates we have lost along the way," Swift said. "As a young naval aviator, I stopped counting at 13 the memorial services that I attended. It seemed like a good point to do so. Instead of numbers, I chose to focus on both those we had lost and those they had left behind."

In remembering those who died on the Fitzgerald and McCain, he said, "We must recommit ourselves to recognizing that

while individuals are responsible for their loss and must be held accountable, the readiness environment that created the conditions for those individual failures and the death of the Fitzgerald seven and McCain 10 must be improved."

He said he was convinced that the Readiness Reform and Oversight Council, which the Navy stood up on Jan. 30, would prevent such collisions from happening again.

The council is tasked with ensuring enactment of reforms and recommendations from two separate post-collision reviews by the Navy regarding problems with

managing, training, education and culture that contributed to the collisions.

The fleet's other foremost challenge is China's increasingly assertive navy and militarization of the South China Sea — although Swift did not mention the country by name.

China's vision for the Pacific, "with its inherent leveraging of national power for national goals at the expense of regional stability, has such significant global implications we should all be concerned," Swift said.

"The leading edge of the application of this vision in the South China Sea has begun to spread to the Indian Ocean, a creeping genesis of a new rules-based order formed on the basis of military power, not international consensus."

Aquilino, who was Swift's operations director when he took command of Pacific Fleet in 2015, echoed the concerns of his former boss.

"A great powers competition has re-emerged as the central challenge to security and prosperity against our nation," Aquilino said. "Nowhere are the stakes of that great powers competition higher than here in the Indo-Pacific region."

The sailors of Pacific Fleet live in stormy times, Swift said, and when "a storm catches up with you at sea, it is a daunting experience" with "nowhere to hide, nowhere to run."

He offered up the counsel his career Navy father once gave him: "Bad weather makes good sailors."

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USAF taps Clark for deputy chief of staff job

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Lt. Gen. Richard M. Clark, the commander of 3rd Air Force, is preparing for a job change.

Clark was nominated for assignment as deputy chief of staff, strategic deterrence and nuclear integration, a position that falls under Headquarters U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon, Air Force officials said.

Congress must approve the assignment. The Air Force in 2015 elevated the job for which Clark's been nominated from a two-star to a three-star position, underscoring the service's efforts to strengthen its nuclear enterprise leadership.

A B-1 Lancer pilot with 4,200 flight hours, Clark assumed command of 3rd Air Force in October



Third Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Richard Clark speaks at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in October 2016. Clark is nominated as deputy chief of staff, strategic deterrence and nuclear integration.

2016. In that job, he oversees Air Force contingency and wartime operations in Europe and Africa. There's no word yet on a poten-

tial replacement for Clark, Air Force officials said.

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LaNeve takes over 7th Army Command

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Brig. Gen. Christopher LaNeve assumed command of the 7th Army Training Command on Friday as Brig. Gen. Tony Aguto relinquished authority of the Army's largest training command in Europe.

LaNeve most recently served as the deputy commander for operations with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C.

The 7th Army Training Command oversees several installations throughout Europe, the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, the 7th Army NCO Academy and the Joint Multinational Training Group in Ukraine.

"I'm ready to be part of this team," LaNeve said at the change-of-command ceremony.

Aguto, who held command of the 7ATC for two years, said he will miss living in Germany and



MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. Christopher LaNeve took command of the 7th Army Training Command on Friday.

serving as part of U.S. Army Europe.

"I think this is a great command, and a great location," Aguto said.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

South Korean Cpl. Choi Ji Heon, of the 65th Medical Brigade, takes part in the Eighth Army's Best Warrior competition at Camp Casey, South Korea, on Thursday.

Best: Competition tests soldiering skills

FROM FRONT PAGE

rucking to various stations to test basic soldiering skills — from using a radio to applying first aid.

The competition finally ended with a 12-mile road march Friday.

The winners were Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Widmer, 2nd Infantry Division, as best noncommissioned officer; Cpl. Jacob Bee, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, as best soldier; 1st Lt. James Reed, 1ABCT, 31D, as best officer; Warrant Officer David Hobart, 21D, as best warrant officer; and Pfc. Kim Do, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, as best KATUSA.

The Best Warrior event is an annual Army-wide competition that starts at the battalion level and ends with 22 troops from 11 major commands competing to be named best soldier or NCO at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in September.

Widmer and Bee will advance to the best in the Pacific contest



A soldier runs while wearing a gas mask during the competition.

next month in Hawaii.

The best officer, warrant officer and KATUSAs — who are South Korean augments to the

U.S. Army — ended their run at the Eighth Army level.

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Fort Carson adding new brigade and more troops

By TOM ROEDER

(The Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

Fort Carson will get more than 800 new troops in the coming months as the Army adds a brigade with expertise in training foreign militaries.

The move will elevate troop numbers on Fort Carson above 25,000 — the most soldiers in Colorado Springs since the Vietnam War. It also will give the post the Army's newest kind of unit — dubbed a security force assistance brigade — designed to train, advise and assist U.S. allies.

"It's a win for national security," said U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado Springs, who for months has lobbied Army leaders to bring the troops to Colorado Springs.

The first of the 816 soldiers in the unit and

the 1,200 family members expected to accompany them will be on the way to Fort Carson as soon as this summer. An exact timeline hasn't been released.

U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said he also leaned on the Army to get the new unit to Fort Carson.

"I'm thrilled that this is becoming a reality," Gardner said in an email.

Fort Carson Maj. Gen. Randy George said the new unit is a good fit for the post.

"It just makes sense when you consider Fort Carson's premier training range areas, excellent high-altitude location and extremely supportive community," George said in an email.

The Army said the new brigade's troops will be "among the most highly trained tactical leaders in the Army."

The soldiers, who will be equipped with the Army's latest gear, will be trained in language, foreign weapons, and artillery and aerial combat coordination.

While the brigade's primary mission is training foreign troops, it also will be ready to serve as the cadre for a new, 4,000-soldier combat brigade if the Army has to expand to meet a crisis, the Army said.

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., issued a statement praising the Army move.

"Fort Carson leadership and the surrounding communities have made Colorado the best place to train, live, and work," he said. "We're confident the Army's security force assistance mission will benefit from the superb soldiers who call Colorado home."

Associated Press

BEIJING — The Pentagon criticized what it called China's "continued militarization" of island outposts in the disputed South China Sea, where the Chinese air force landed long-range bombers for the first time, putting all of Southeast Asia within their range.

The China Daily newspaper reported Saturday that the People's Liberation Army Air Force conducted takeoff and landing training with the H-6K bomber in the South China Sea.

China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

A statement from the Defense Ministry late Friday said the exercise was conducted on an island reef, but it did not specify when or where, saying only that it took place recently at a "southern sea area." It involved several H-6Ks taking off from an air base and making a simulated strike against sea targets before landing, the ministry said.

Wang Mingliang, a military expert, was quoted in the statement as saying that the exercises will help the air force improve its "real combat ability against all kinds of marine security threats."

The U.S., which doesn't have any territorial claims but insists on freedom of navigation and a peaceful resolution of the disputes without coercion or threat of force, criticized the move.

"The United States remains committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific," a Pentagon spokesman, Marine Lt. Col. Christopher Logan, said in an email. "We have seen these same reports and China's continued militarization

of disputed features in the South China Sea only serves to raise tensions and destabilize the region."

The Washington-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, using Chinese social media posts, identified the location of the exercise as Woody Island, China's largest base in the Paracel Islands that are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

With a combat radius of nearly 1,900 nautical miles, the H-6K bomber would put all of Southeast Asia in its range from Woody Island, the AMTI said.

Farther south in the Spratly group of islands, China has constructed seven man-made islands and equipped them with runways, hangars, radar and missile stations, further cementing its vast territorial claims in the busy waterway.

The U.S. and others accuse Beijing of militarizing the region to bolster its claims. Washington has said it violates a pledge by President Xi Jinping to former President Barack Obama not to militarize the area. China says it has a legitimate right to build up defenses on the islands.



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MILITARY

Firefighters learn to battle flames aboard ships

By MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

NORFOLK, Va. — Fighting fires is among the most dangerous of professions. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reports that 93 firefighters lost their lives last year and 38 have been killed in the line of duty in 2018.

Most firefighters have trained extensively to mitigate the danger on land. But that's not necessarily true when firefighters are asked to combat flames aboard naval vessels, where much of what they've trained for on land can be turned on its head.

That's a problem for municipalities near major bodies of water, and it's one that the annual Marine Firefighting School in Norfolk, Va., looks to solve.

In its 27th year, the five-day course brings together more than 100 students from regions as close as Norfolk and as far-flung as Singapore to better equip them to handle the unique dangers of shipborne firefighting.

"When you pull up to a house we get lines on a fire in minutes," said Harry Worley, battalion chief and public information officer for Norfolk Fire-Rescue. "When you pull up to a ship you may be looking at an hour" to get the hoses in place to fight the fire.

When a fire breaks out on a massive naval vessel, everything — from the complex layout to the chemicals aboard — becomes a new danger. Keeping the vessel afloat becomes a real concern.

Al Huelsenbeck, deputy chief of operations for the Delaware River and Bay marine incident response team and one of the instructors for the Norfolk training event, said the firefighters in attendance are experienced, but are not accustomed to the unique challenges of fighting fires on ships.

"The majority of municipal firefighters are not acclimated to ships, so that becomes a concern for them," he said. "We have to put it into the marine environment."

To do so, the instructors at Norfolk run students through a scenario in which a fire has broken out below decks of a cargo ship, using the docked Cape Rise.

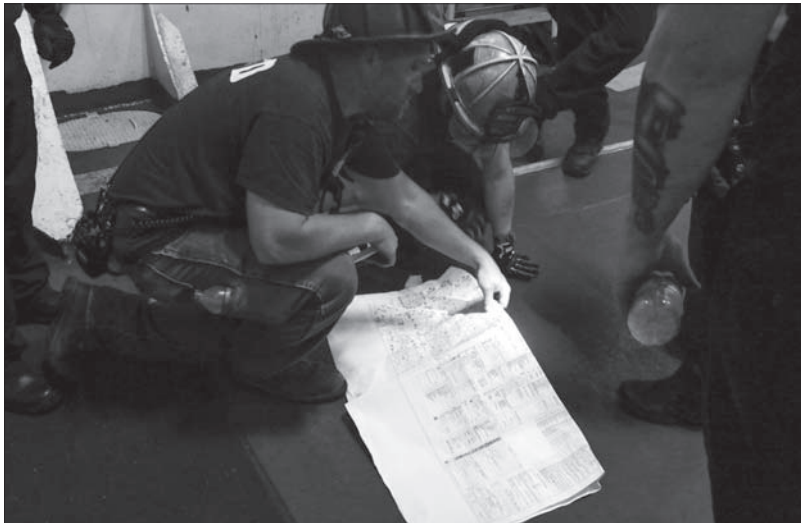
The firefighters are broken into companies of 25, and each one has an hour to put out the simulated fire — complete with vision-obliterating smoke. They are forced to maneuver three decks of twisted corridors, steep drop-offs and narrow gangplanks, all while managing heavy hoses and a limited supply of air.

Doug Dillon, chief of the maritime response team for the Delaware River and an instructor at Norfolk, said that in a normal structure on land, firefighters "can get out very quickly; it may only take a few seconds." On a ship, it can take 3 to 5 minutes to exit. Firefighters can use up half of their air supply just reaching the fire, he said.

Firefighters responding to a call on a ship have to learn to cooperate with people they work with every day joined by different agencies that could have jurisdiction over ports and naval facilities.

The training forces firefighting departments, including some Coast Guardsmen, to work together even though their tactics, techniques and jargon can be wildly different.

"It's a good communication-building tactic, because it breaks you out of your comfort zone. It makes you communicate with somebody that you haven't worked with before, in an environment and skills you haven't



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Part of the training at the 27th annual Marine Firefighting School in Norfolk, Va., was teaching firefighters the complexities of maneuvering around the cramped corridors and gangways of a naval vessel.

Watch firefighters learn how to combat blazes aboard ships at:
www.stripes.com/go/norfolk



worked with before," said Erik Hernandez, a former U.S. Marine corporal and current firefighter for the City of Tampa in Florida.

The below-deck scenario is just one part of the Norfolk training course. Firefighters also have to decipher a ship layout map to find points around the vessel — similar to land navigation drills in the military. They climb a rope and plank ladder and learn from the Coast Guard about how a ship's buoyance can be affected by firefighting techniques.

The training course at Norfolk shows how complex and intense fighting fires below decks can be to firefighters and their commanders, Huelsenbeck said.

"There is a saying among some firefighters," Huelsenbeck said. "Ship's no problem. It's nothing but a high-rise put on its side." You know who tells you that? The guy who never fought a fire belowdecks on a ship."

Commanders make the call to send in firefighters, to let the ship's fixed firefighting systems handle it or to let the ship burn. It's a hard call to make, Huelsenbeck said, but it's one that training at the Norfolk school can help commanders make.

"They can make a more informed decision and, most importantly, the safest decision for their people, and that's why we do this," he said. "No ship is worth the life of a firefighter."

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Firefighters wait their turn to go below deck of the cargo ship Cape Rise to combat a simulated fire Thursday.



Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officers Rob Birdwell, left, and David Porco came to Norfolk, Va., from their training center in Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown, Va., to teach firefighters about the unique challenges of fighting a fire aboard ship.

'No ship is worth the life of a firefighter.'

Al Huelsenbeck

deputy chief of operations for the Delaware River and Bay marine incident response team

WAR ON TERRORISM



HADI MUHAMMAD/AP

Brett McGurk, the U.S. envoy for the global coalition against Islamic State, is expected to remain in his job at least through the end of the year following the Trump administration's decision to keep open the State Department unit overseeing the fight against ISIS for at least six more months.

US anti-ISIS office gets reprieve as pullout from Syria accelerates

By JOSH LEDEMAN
AND MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department unit overseeing the fight against Islamic State will stay in business for at least six more months, reversing an administration plan for the unit's imminent downgrade even as President Donald Trump presses ahead with a speedy exit from Syria.

A plan initiated by Rex Tillerson before he was fired as secretary of state in March would have folded the office of the special envoy to the global coalition into the department's counterterrorism bureau as early as spring, officials said. Tillerson's successor, Mike Pompeo, canceled the plan this month, and the office will stay an independent entity until at least December when there will be a new review, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The office reports directly to the secretary of state and the president, and the planned shift would have undercut its status and the priority of its mission. It could have led to staffing and budget cuts as well as the departure of the special envoy, Brett McGurk. He is now expected to remain in his job at least through the end of the year.

Still, the officials said Trump's intent to reduce the U.S. military and civilian stabilization presence in Syria has not changed and is, in fact, accelerating. The State Department has ended all funding for stabilization programs in Syria's northwest. ISIS militants have been almost entirely eliminated from the region, which is controlled by a hodgepodge of other extremist groups and Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

At least some of the U.S. money for those projects is expected to be redirected to Syria's northeast where ISIS fighters remain, the

ISIS fighters said vacating outskirts of Syrian capital

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A cease-fire between Syrian government forces and Islamic State militants in the southern neighborhoods of Damascus has held for 24 hours amid reports that some of the fighters were permitted to leave, a Syrian war monitoring group said Sunday.

Syria's official state news agency and government officials denied reaching a deal to allow the militants to evacuate Yarmouk and adjacent areas. State-run al-Ikhbariya TV said government forces plan to drive the militants from their strongholds in the area.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said buses carrying

ISIS fighters left the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk and the adjacent al-Tadamon neighborhood overnight. A video circulating online showed lines of buses waiting in the camp with their engines running.

Damascus residents said the situation was calm, with no warplanes flying overhead Sunday. Al-Watan, a pro-government newspaper, said the militants are believed to have surrendered. The Observatory said ISIS militants began burning their posts in Yarmouk and adjacent areas. Residents said smoke was billowing over the area.

Al-Ikhbariya TV said a new plan is underway to storm ISIS-held areas in Hajar al-Aswad, near Yarmouk.

officials said.

The conflicting moves of retaining McGurk's office while pulling out of the northwest illustrate how the administration is being pulled in different directions by Trump's two competing interests: extricating the U.S. from Middle East conflicts and delivering a permanent defeat to ISIS.

Trump has said the U.S. will be withdrawing from Syria "like very soon." In late March, the State Department, the Pentagon and intelligence agencies tried to dissuade him from pulling troops out immediately, warning there was a risk ISIS would regroup. Trump relented slightly, but told aides they could have only five or six months to finish off ISIS and get out.

As Trump's administration eyes an exit as soon as ISIS is vanquished, the broader situation in Syria is not getting any better as far as American interests are concerned.

Assad's forces are making inroads against the opposition and now control roads between Syria's three main cities for the first time since the war broke out in 2011. Moscow is solidifying its influence, even hosting Assad for a surprise visit Thursday to Russia, where he met with President Vladimir Putin. And an outbreak of direct fighting between Israel and Iranian forces based in Syria has catalyzed concerns about Tehran's involvement in Syria and the potential for a broader regional conflict.

New clues bolster belief leader of ISIS is still alive

By JOBY WARRICK
AND SOUAD MEKHENET
The Washington Post

His self-declared caliphate was in ruins when Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi summoned some of his top aides to a meeting in eastern Syria last year. The Islamic State's capital in Iraq had fallen, and its Syrian headquarters was under siege.

Yet the terrorist leader had something else on his mind: schoolchildren.

The gathering near the city of Deir al-Zour was called by Baghdadi personally to discuss rewriting the terrorist group's educational curriculum, according to an ISIS official who was arrested in a joint operation by Turkish and Iraqi officials earlier this year. Baghdadi wanted to examine a subject that had less to do with immediate survival than with preserving the organization's ideological core.

"Several top leaders were present, as well as the curricula committee, which I headed," the captured officer, known as Abu Zaid al-Iraqi, said in a videotaped statement aired on Iraqi television.

The meeting, said to have occurred in mid-2017, was the third convening of a committee that had been a pet project of the man at the top, having been "established by caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi," the officer said.

The incident provides a rare glimpse into the secluded life of ISIS' leader, a man who has allowed himself to be photographed only once, in July 2014, and has spoken publicly only a handful of times since then. His prolonged absences have given writers to countless false reports portraying Baghdadi as either dead or gravely wounded and incapacitated.

Despite such rumors, U.S. counterterrorism officials are convinced Baghdadi is alive and helping direct long-term strategy for the dwindling numbers of ISIS fighters defending the group's remaining strongholds in eastern Syria. The U.S. view is supported by intelligence intercepts and detainee interrogations, as well as writings and statements by operatives within ISIS' network.

The evidence, while spotty and difficult to confirm, depicts a leader who has opted to make himself invisible even within his organization — a decision that has drawn complaints from followers and arguably undercuts his ability to rally his beleaguered forces, terrorism experts say.

But the intercepts and reports also suggest Baghdadi has shifted his attention in recent months to

crafting an ideological framework that will survive the physical destruction of the caliphate in Iraq and Syria. In addition to his effort to revamp the group's school curriculum, Baghdadi appears to have been behind a series of missives in recent months that sought to settle ideological disputes between ISIS factions.

Viewed together, such actions convey the impression of a disciplined retreat, with Baghdadi helping manage preparations for a shift from caliphate to underground insurgency and international terrorist movement, current and former U.S. officials said.

The essential strategy also was confirmed by a self-proclaimed ISIS operative contacted by The Washington Post through an encrypted messaging service. The operative said Baghdadi — a university professor before becoming a terrorist — and other top leaders decided early on to prioritize the indoctrination of children and recruits, both inside Iraq and Syria and abroad. The effort gained additional urgency as it became clear that the group's Islamic enclave would not survive, he said.

Under Baghdadi's direction, "the values of the caliphate would be seeded in the Umma [Islamic community], and not disappear," the operative said, "even if the caliphate would."

In media accounts, Baghdadi has been killed or gravely injured at least a half-dozen times since 2014. He was said to have died in three different aerial bombings, carried out by Russian or U.S. warplanes. Other reports claimed variously that he had been arrested by Syrian troops, mortally wounded in an artillery strike, and poisoned by assassins.

Some observers see Baghdadi's absence as part of a deliberate strategy within an organization that in recent years has chosen to de-emphasize the importance of individual leaders in advancing the group's ideals.

"A lot of ISIS supporters say that Baghdadi doesn't want to make ISIS all about him," said Cole Bunzel, a Middle East scholar at Princeton University. "There has been an effort, in fact, not to elevate any one personality above the organization."

Yet Baghdadi's virtual invisibility during a crucial struggle for the group's survival has stirred controversy within ISIS itself. In recent weeks, members of an Islamic State offshoot in Deir al-Zour have posted messages on social media complaining that Baghdadi has removed himself from the field of battle.

NATION

Texas official calls for 'hardening' of schools

By PAUL J. WEBER
AND JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

SANTA FE, Texas — Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called Sunday for a "hardening" of the nation's school buildings in the wake of the attack by a 17-year-old student who killed 10 people at a high school near Houston.

Patrick, a Republican, blamed a "culture of violence" and said more needs to be done to keep shooters away from students, such as restricting school entrances and arming teachers.

"When you're facing someone who's an active shooter, the best way to take that shooter down is with a gun. But even better than that is four to five guns to one," he told CNN's "State of the Union." On ABC's "The Week," Patrick said he supports background checks for gun purchasers but stressed that "gun regulation starts at home."

Meanwhile, congregations in the community of Santa Fe, population 13,000, gathered for the first church services since the assault.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott hugged grieving parishioners at Arcadia First Baptist Church. Among them was Monica Bracknell, an 18-year-old senior who survived the shooting. She stopped to tell the governor that the attack should not be turned into a political battle over gun control.

Surrounded by television cameras, photographers and reporters, she told Abbott guns were not to blame.

"People are making this into a political issue," she said she told him. "This is not a political issue. It's not a gun-law issue."

Elsewhere, the first funeral for a shooting victim was set for later Sunday. Services for 17-year-old



Kaley Gates and her sons Brayden, Carson and Mason look over notes and flowers left at a memorial behind Texas First Bank on Saturday in Santa Fe, Texas. JENNIFER REYNOLDS, THE GALVESTON (TEXAS) COUNTY DAILY NEWS/AP



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/AP

Santa Fe High School baseball players bow their heads in a moment of silence for the shooting victims before a game Saturday.

Pakistani exchange student Sabika Sheikh were to take place at a mosque in suburban Houston.

Her father, Abdul Aziz Sheikh, described his daughter as a hard-

working and accomplished student who aspired to work in civil service and hoped one day to join Pakistan's foreign office. Her body is to be returned to her fam-

ily in Karachi.

The suspect in Friday's attack began by firing a shotgun through an art classroom door, shattering a glass pane and sending panicked students to the entryway to block him from getting inside, witnesses said.

Dimitrios Pagourtzis fired again through the wooden part of the door and fatally hit a student in the chest. He then lingered for about 30 minutes in a warren of four rooms, killing seven more students and two teachers before exchanging gunfire with police and surrendering, officials said.

Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, the county's chief administrator, said he did not think Friday's attack was 30 minutes of constant shooting, and that assessment was consistent with other officials who said law enforcement contained the shooter

quickly. But authorities did not release a detailed timeline to explain precisely how events unfolded.

Junior Breanna Quintanilla was in art class when she heard the shots and someone say, "If you all move, I'm going to shoot you all."

Pagourtzis walked in, pointed at one person and declared, "I'm going to kill you." Then he fired.

"He then said that if the rest of us moved, he was going to shoot us," Quintanilla said.

When Quintanilla tried to run out a back door, she realized Pagourtzis was coming at her. He fired in her direction.

"He missed me," she said. "But it went ahead and ricocheted and hit me in my right leg." She was treated at a hospital and spoke with a brown bandage wrapped around her wound.

In their first statement since the massacre, Pagourtzis' family said Saturday that the bloodshed "seems incompatible with the boy we love."

"We are as shocked and confused as anyone else by these events," said the statement, which offered prayers and condolences to the victims.

Pagourtzis' attorney, Nicholas Poehl, said he was investigating whether the suspect endured any "teacher-on-student" bullying after reading reports of his client being mistreated by football coaches.

In an online statement, the school district said it investigated the accusations and "confirmed that these reports were untrue."

In addition to a shotgun and a handgun, Pagourtzis also had several kinds of homemade explosive devices, but they were not capable of detonating, Henry said.

Teen's choice of guns complicates assault rifles debate

By CALLUM BORCHERS
The Washington Post

Las Vegas introduced Americans to the rapid-fire lethality of bump stocks. Parkland reminded the public how quickly someone can inflict mass carnage with an AR-15, the weapon of choice in many rampages.

But Friday's shooting at Santa Fe High School, which left 10 dead, was carried out with a pistol and a shotgun, firearms that even gun-control advocates generally regard as utilitarian.

The reality that weapons not included in proposed assault-rifle bans can still exact a double-digit death toll further complicates a wrenching national debate about how to prevent future tragedies.

"That's true" that weapons other than assault rifles can kill many people at once, conceded Avery W. Gardiner, co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, which favors a federal ban on assault rifles but not on shotguns or pistols.

Gardiner added, however, that "the reason most mass shootings are conducted with assault weapons is that shooters know full well what weapon to select, if they want to kill the most amount of people in

the shortest amount of time possible, and that's an AR-15-style gun with a large-capacity magazine. If this shooter had had one of those, quite likely there would have been more deaths and injuries. But we don't know."

'Of course there is no single law that will prevent gun violence, but there are common-sense solutions that are proven to work ...'

John Feinblatt
Everytown for Gun
Safety

Second Amendment champion, called for raising the minimum age to purchase such weapons to 21 after the Parkland shooting. He subsequently softened his position, directing a commission led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

to merely "study and make recommendations" on "age restrictions for certain firearm purchases."

Scott Pearson, father of a Santa Fe High football player, suggested Friday's result would have been the same, regardless of weapon.

"You can do this with anything," said Pearson, who sometimes drove the alleged shooter, Dimitrios Pagourtzis, home from practice. "Almost everybody has a pistol or a shotgun for protection."

There are more registered weapons in Texas than in any other state, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, though some smaller states have more guns per capita.

Opponents of gun-control measures contend the Santa Fe shooting exposes the futility of laws to restrict firearms ownership.

"When used at closer ranges, the average bird-hunting shotgun is actually more deadly than the much-vilified AR-15," said Dudley Brown, president of the National Association for Gun Rights. "Banning AR-15s will do nothing to stop disturbed and deranged shooters."

The argument for a shotgun being dead-

lier is that a single round can spray a target with multiple pellets; one trigger pull on an assault rifle fires a lone bullet.

"I think human history shows that evil people use whatever resources are available to do awful things," added Brandon Combs, president of the Firearms Policy Coalition. "There's enough information available in a Google search to plan ways to kill hundreds or thousands of people at a time, but we can't ban knowledge."

Gun-control advocates counter that laws should not be based on any single incident — that the fact that an assault-rifle ban wouldn't have thwarted the Santa Fe suspect should not resign the country to the inevitability of more shootings.

"Of course there is no single law that will prevent all gun violence, but there are common-sense solutions that are proven to work, like requiring a criminal-background check on every gun sale and ensuring that adults store firearms responsibly," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety. "But, in order to enact these lifesaving policies that the vast majority of Americans support, we first need to elect leaders who are willing to stand up to the NRA."

NATION

Hawaii faces a variety of threats from volcano

By CALEB JONES AND
JENNIFER SINGO KELLEHER
Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — In the weeks since Hawaii's Kilauea volcano began erupting, dozens of homes have burned from oozing lava, people have fled their homes and plumes of steam from the summit have shot skyward, prompting officials to distribute face masks to protect against ash particles.

Lava flows have grown more vigorous in recent days, and there's concern more homes may burn and more evacuations may be ordered. Still, scientists can't say whether lava flows from nearly two dozen fissures will continue to advance or stop.

"We have no way of knowing whether this is really the beginning or toward the end of this eruption," said Tom Shea, a volcanologist at the University of Hawaii. "We're kind of all right now in this world of uncertainty."

In addition to ash fallout from explosions and the threat of lava crossing main highways, officials warned of another hazard Saturday as a flow advanced southeast

to the ocean: laze.

"Laze is when hot lava hits the ocean sending hydrochloric acid and steam with fine glass particles in the air," the Hawaii County Civil Defense agency said in an update to the public.

The area affected by lava and ash is small compared with the Big Island, which is about 4,000 square miles. Most of the island and the rest of the Hawaiian chain is unaffected by the volcanic activity on Kilauea.

State and local officials have been reminding tourists that flights in and out of the entire state, including the Big Island, have not been affected. Even on the Big Island, most tourist activities are still available and businesses are open.

Evacuation orders for two neighborhoods with nearly 2,000 people were given after a first fissure opened May 3. Officials have been warning neighboring communities to be prepared to evacuate.

A handful of people were trapped when a flow crossed a road Friday. Some had to be airlifted to safety.

"They shouldn't be in that



JAE C. HONG/AP

Evacuee Michael Hauanao, 32, watches a clip on a phone showing volcanic activity at a makeshift donation center as clouds turn red from lava flow in the Leilani Estates subdivision near Pahoa, Hawaii, on Friday.

area," said County Managing Director Will Okabe.

Lava flows have become faster as fresher magma mixed with decades-old magma.

The change is attributed to new magma mixing with 1955-era magma in the ground, creating hotter and more fluid flows, scientists said.

By Saturday morning, two of 22 fissures had merged, creating a wide flow advancing at rates of up to 300 yards per hour. Aerial footage from the U.S. Geological Survey showed fast-moving

lava advancing to the southeast. The flow was 1.5 miles from the ocean, scientists said.

In the background, the footage showed lava fountaining 328 feet high at one of the fissures. The fountains are created by vents closing, forcing magma to burst through a single outpoint, Stovall said.

Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magno said a man suffered a "serious" leg injury Saturday when he was hit with a lava spatter while sitting on his porch near the Lanipuna Garden

subdivision, the Star-Advertiser reported.

The Big Island volcano released a small explosion at its summit just before midnight Friday, sending an ash cloud 10,000 feet into the sky. The USGS's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said eruptions that create even minor amounts of ashfall could occur at any time. That follows the more explosive eruption Thursday, which emitted ash and rocks thousands of feet into the sky. No one was injured and there were no reports of damaged property.

Cougar kills 1 biker and injures 2nd near Seattle

Associated Press

NORTH BEND, Wash. — Two friends on a morning mountain bike ride 30 miles east of Seattle were attacked by a cougar, killing one of the men and leaving the second hospitalized in what authorities described as a rare occurrence.

The cougar was later found up a tree near the dead man's body, where agents for the state's Fish and Wildlife police shot and killed it hours after the Saturday attack, the Seattle Times reported.

The names of neither man were immediately released.

The injured man was in satisfactory condition at a hospital. Authorities say the cougar initially attacked him before running away. Moments later, it returned with deadly results, authorities said.

"He jumped the first victim and attacked him," said Sgt. Ryan Abbott, of the King County Sheriff's Office. "The second victim turned and started to run away.



ALAN BERNER, THE SEATTLE TIMES/AP

Washington State Fish and Wildlife police confer with a King County Medical Examiner's office official and a King County sheriff's deputy following a fatal cougar attack near Snoqualmie, Wash.

The cougar saw that and went after the second victim. The first victim saw his friend being pulled by the cougar. He got on his bike and started to bike away."

The injured man rode for about 2 miles before getting a cellphone coverage and calling 911.

Abbott said that when rescuers arrived it took them about 30 minutes to locate the second victim, who was dead with the cougar standing on top of him.

"The deputies shot at him and spooked him, and he ran off," he said.

It took several hours before

authorities found the cougar up a tree 50 to 200 yards away and killed it. While the cougar was being hunted, rescuers had to wait to retrieve the dead man's body.

Rich Beausoleil, the state's bear and cougar specialist, said it was only the second fatality in the state in the last 94 years. "But it's one too many," he said.

Cougars, also known as mountain lions and pumas, are a protected species, the Times reported. Each year, the state allows 250 cougars to be hunted and killed in 50 designated zones.

Doctor sentenced for lacing ex-girlfriend's tea with abortion pill

By KRISTINE PHILLIPS
The Washington Post

A Washington-area doctor was sentenced to three years in prison for slipping an abortion pill into his pregnant ex-girlfriend's drink, causing her to miscarry.

Sikander Imran, a former doctor at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, was sentenced Friday after his former girlfriend, Brook Fiske, asked a judge for a more lenient punishment, ABC affiliate WJLA reported.

Imran was charged last June with premeditated killing of a fetus of another and illegally causing abortion or miscarriage. Online records show he was also charged in November with assault and altering food, drink and drugs. He pleaded guilty earlier this year to fetal homicide, The Associated Press reported.

Imran and Fiske both lived in New York and had dated on and off for three years. Around the time that Imran left Rochester, N.Y., and moved to the Washington region for a new job, Fiske

found out she was pregnant. But Imran didn't want to have a baby and tried to persuade Fiske to have an abortion, she told WROC.

In May 2017, Fiske said she went to Arlington, Va., to talk to Imran about raising their child. Unbeknown to her, Imran slipped a pill into her drink, she said.

Fiske began having contractions a few hours later and was rushed to Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, where she lost her baby. She was 17 weeks pregnant.

Fiske said Imran gave her 800 milligrams of the pill Mifeprostol, which is used to start labor, cause miscarriage and prevent stomach ulcers.

During Imran's sentencing hearing Friday, his attorney argued that he's dealing with mental health issues, according to WJLA.

WJLA also reported that she didn't want her ex-boyfriend to serve a long prison sentence. Fetal homicide, a Class 2 felony, is punishable by up to 40 years in prison. A judge sentenced him to 20 years, with 17 years suspended.

NATION

US and China agree to cut trade deficit

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AND PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and China have agreed to take measures to “substantially reduce” America’s massive trade deficit with China, but the Trump administration failed to get the Chinese to commit to a specific numerical goal.

Still, the talks, which began Thursday and ended Saturday with the issuance of a joint statement, may have helped to ease tensions at least slightly between the world’s two biggest economic powers. In recent months the two have threatened to impose punitive tariffs on billions of dollars in each other’s exports.

In the statement, Beijing committed to “significantly increase” its purchases of American goods and services, saying that the increase would “meet the growing consumption needs of the Chinese people and the need for high-quality economic development.”

The two countries also agreed on “meaningful increases” of U.S. agriculture and energy exports and greater efforts to increase trade in manufactured goods and services. The United States said it would send a team to China to work out the details.

The statement provided no dollar amounts on how much China might boost its purchases of American products. Larry Kudlow, head of the president’s National Economic Council, had told reporters Friday that a reduction in the trade gap of at least \$200 billion in 2020 was a “good number.”

Last year, the United States had a record deficit with China in merchandise trade of \$375 billion, the largest of any nation.

Saturday’s statement also was silent on whether



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

White House chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow speaks during a television interview outside the White House on Friday.

the talks had made progress in easing a developing tit-for-tat trade war in which each nation threatened to impose punitive tariffs.

Trade analysts said it was highly unlikely that China would ever agree to a numerical target for cutting the trade gap between the two nations, but they said the talks likely were more successful in de-escalating recent trade tensions.

“It is likely that this agreement, weak and vague though it is, will serve as grounds to at least delay the imposition of tariffs,” said Eswar Prasad, an economist and trade expert at Cornell University.

Trump campaigned in 2016 on a pledge to get tough on China and other U.S. trading partners. He views the massive U.S. trade deficit with China as evidence that Beijing is engaged in abusive trading practices and has outmaneuvered previous U.S. administrations.

Trump Jr. met with figures in Mueller probe

By TOM LOBIANCO
AND ERIC TRUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump Jr. met during the 2016 campaign with a private military contractor and an adviser to Middle Eastern leaders, both of whom have since become a focus of investigators working for special counsel Robert Mueller, a lawyer for President Donald Trump’s eldest son said Saturday.

Erik Prince, an informal adviser to the Trump campaign and former head of Blackwater, and George Nader, a veteran operative who has advised the United Arab Emirates and helped American contractors secure business in the Middle East, met with Trump Jr. at Trump Tower to discuss a social media proposal, lawyer Alan Futerfas said in a statement.

“They pitched Mr. Trump Jr. on a social media platform or marketing strategy. He was not interested and that was the end of it,” Futerfas said.

Also at the meeting was Joel Zamel, the CEO of a social media company called WikiStrat. But he neither offered social media services to the Trump campaign nor was he asked to help the campaign, his lawyer, Marc Mukasey, said. “Joel Zamel offered nothing to the Trump campaign, received nothing from the Trump campaign, delivered nothing to the Trump campaign and was not solicited by or asked to do anything for, the Trump campaign,” Mukasey said Saturday.

Mukasey also called it “misguided” to say Zamel conducts “social media manipulation,” as suggested by The New York Times, which first reported the meeting. The newspaper said the August 2016 meeting was convened primarily to offer assistance to the Trump

campaign and that the outreach suggests countries other than Russia may have offered to help get Trump elected.

Mueller’s investigators have been looking into a later meeting, in January 2017 in the Seychelles, that Nader and Prince held with Abu Dhabi’s crown prince, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Kirill Dmitriev, a Russian banker with close ties to the Kremlin. Nader is a witness in Mueller’s ongoing investigation into Russian interference in the election.

The Associated Press reported in March that Nader had been convicted on 10 counts of sexually assaulting a minor in the Czech Republic in 2003. Employees for Prince’s previous firm, Blackwater, were implicated in the deaths of 14 civilians in Iraq in 2007.

Neither a spokesman for Prince nor a spokeswoman for Nader’s lawyer immediately returned requests for comment.

Members of the House intelligence committee peppered Prince with questions about his interactions with the Trump campaign during a November 2017 interview, but Prince did not disclose the Trump Tower meeting with Trump Jr. and Nader.

Mueller has dug into various facets of the social media and digital efforts in the 2016 election as part of his expansive federal probe. In February, he filed an indictment against 13 Russians and three companies accused of running an elaborate campaign on social media to disrupt the elections.

The federal probe has also dipped into the digital side of Trump’s 2016 campaign, with Mueller’s team asking former campaign staff about the role of Cambridge Analytica, the voter data firm which former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon helped run.

Trump’s tweet on Melania misspells her name

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump returned to the White House in “high spirits” on Saturday following a weeklong hospitalization for kidney treatment, a lengthy stay that raised questions about whether the first lady’s condition may have been more complicated than first revealed.

President Donald Trump heralded her homecoming with a tweet that referred to her as “Melanie” instead of “Melania.”

“Great to have our incredible First Lady back home in the White House. Melanie is feeling and doing really well. Thank you for all of your prayers and best

wishes!” Trump wrote before quickly superseding that tweet with another that spelled his wife’s name correctly.

Mrs. Trump’s quiet return to the White House, her husband and their 12-year-old son, after five days at a nearby U.S. military hospital resolved a brewing mystery about when she would eventually be released. What remain are questions about the state of her health.

Her spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, has declined to release additional details, citing Mrs. Trump’s right to privacy.

From The Associated Press

Conservatives sink House farm bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders suffered an embarrassing setback Friday when conservatives scuttled an ambitious farm bill, part of a high-stakes power play as they once again exert their oversized sway in the House.

In this case, conservatives in the House Freedom Caucus wanted to slow the momentum of bipartisan immigration legislation to help young “Dreamers.”

Republican moderates are gaining ground with their immigration effort, and conservatives don’t like the deals taking shape. By withholding their votes on the farm bill, they flexed their political muscle to doom both.

Not even a tweet from President Donald Trump supporting the farm bill could save it from the chaos Friday. It was defeated, 213-198. Some 30 Republicans joined with every chamber Democrat in opposition.

The vote was a blow to GOP leaders, exposing the power struggle underway as leaders jockey to replace Speaker Paul Ryan, who is not seeking re-election. It disrupts GOP efforts to portray party unity ahead of the midterm election and to rack up legislative wins to motivate voters to the polls to keep their majority.

Trump is “disappointed in the result of today’s vote” “hopes this House can resolve any remaining issues,” said Deputy Press



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wis., emerges from the House Freedom Caucus helped to kill passage of the farm bill at the Capitol in Washington on Friday.

Secretary Lindsay Walters.

The outcome also shelves for now the big, five-year farm bill, a top GOP priority because it combines stricter work and job training requirements for food stamp recipients — long pushed by Ryan as part of his safety net cuts — with a renewal of farm subsidies popular in GOP-leaning farm country.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., a veteran campaign strategist, said it’s a “mistake” for conservatives to play the farm and immigration bills against each other. “You don’t hold one thing hostage for something that’s totally different,” he said.

Conservatives, though, have gained clout in the House by with-

holding their block of some 30 votes to exert their sway on legislation. That strategy is expected to escalate as they jockey for promotions up the leadership ladder once Ryan retires.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a leader of the House Freedom Caucus who has expressed an interest in running for House speaker, said some conservatives had concerns over the farm bill, largely because of its spending, but “my main focus was making sure we do immigration policy right.”

Democrats are strongly opposed to the farm bill, saying the stricter work and job training rules are poorly designed and would force 2 million people off food stamps.

WORLD

N. Korea demands return of workers

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Saturday reiterated its demands for South Korea to send back 12 North Korean restaurant workers who came to the South in 2016, saying such a move would demonstrate Seoul's willingness to improve relations.

The statement by North Korea's Red Cross came a week after Seoul said it would look more closely into the circumstances surrounding the women's arrival following a media report that suggested some of them might have been brought to the South against their will.

Earlier in the week, North Korea canceled a high-level meeting with the South over U.S.-South Korean military exercises and threatened to call off a planned summit between its leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

North Korean defectors hold photos of the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a rally Saturday in front of the Government Complex in Seoul, South Korea, against the possible repatriation of North Korean restaurant workers to North Korea.

Trump.

The cancellation cooled what had been an unusual flurry of diplomatic moves from Pyongyang following a provocative year of nuclear and missile tests.

Kim met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a historic summit on April 27 where they issued a vague vow for the "complete denuclearization" of their peninsula and pledged permanent

peace. More substantial discussions about the North's nuclear weapons are expected between Kim and Trump in a meeting planned for June 12 in Singapore.

The North's Red Cross accused South Korean officials of evading responsibility and betraying the spirit of last month's inter-Korean summit.

It said Seoul should "severely punish those involved in the

case, send our women citizens to their families without delay and thus show the will to improve the North-South ties."

Seoul had previously said it sufficiently confirmed the women's free will in escaping from the North and resettling in the South. North Korea had been accusing South Korea of abducting the women, who were working in China.

Goals: Experts say Kim not likely to cancel summit with Trump

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump has insisted that international economic sanctions against the North won't be lifted until the communist state agrees to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

But administration officials have said negotiations could lead to economic rewards and security assurances for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his regime, which has been accused of widespread human rights abuses.

Caught in the middle

The North canceled high-level talks with the South on Wednesday, casting a shadow over hopes for improved inter-Korean relations less than a month after Moon and Kim met in a border village and promised "a new era of peace."

The two men also agreed to the "complete denuclearization" of the divided peninsula, although the final declaration contained no specific measures on how to achieve that.

The mood shifted last week when North Korea returned to angry rhetoric and criticized the South for allowing a two-week joint Air Force drill with Washington to proceed on May 11.

Senior North Korean official Ri Son Gwon reiterated the communist state's allegations that the exercises are rehearsals for military strikes.

He also called South Korea's government "an ignorant and incompetent group devoid of the elementary sense of the present situation, of any concrete picture of their dialogue partner and of the ability to discern the present trend of the times," according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Separately, Pyongyang threatened to cancel Kim's summit with Trump, which is planned for June 12 in Singapore, saying it has no interest in talks solely aimed at trying to force it to unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons.

Despite the protests, Trump has said nothing has changed with respect to North Korea, and U.S. and North Korean officials are discussing summit arrangements "as if nothing happened."

He promised that the North Korean leader will "get protections that would be very strong" in exchange for nuclear disarmament. But Trump offered a mixed message regarding suggestions that Washington may seek a Libya-style deal, which the North has rejected.

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who gave up his nuclear program in exchange for economic incentives, was overthrown and brutally killed by rebels years later following a 2011 uprising supported by NATO airstrikes.

The North has frequently used Gadhafi's fate as a justification for its nuclear weapons program, which it insists is for self-defense.

"That model would take place if we don't make a deal, most likely," Trump told reporters on Thursday. "But if we make a deal, I think Kim Jong Un is gonna be very, very happy."

Caught in the middle, South Korea has urged the North to implement agreements reached at the inter-Korean summit and said it believes the North remains committed to improving relations.

"We are just at the starting point and we will not stop or waver as we move forward for peace in the Korean Peninsula," Unification Ministry spokesman Baek Tae-hyun said Friday during a press briefing.

Seoul and Washington insist that their alliance, which was forged during the 1950-53 Korean War, is stronger than ever.

The U.S. maintains about 28,500 service members on the peninsula, and offers the South the protection of its nuclear umbrella.

'Maximum pressure'

North Korea demonstrated strong advances in its nuclear weapons development last year with three intercontinental ballistic missile tests and its sixth and most powerful underground nuclear blast.

Trump responded by stepping up his so-called "maximum pressure" campaign aimed at isolating the regime and cutting off its sources of foreign currency.

He also threatened to unleash "fire and fury" and to "totally destroy North Korea" if forced to defend the U.S. and its allies.

But the president agreed to meet with Kim after the North Korean leader offered an olive branch this year by agreeing to join the Winter Olympics and offering a vague commitment to denuclearization.

Experts say the North is using the renewed criticism to maneuver for leverage in its talks with Trump and is not likely to cancel the high-stakes summit.

After declaring his nuclear force complete, Kim has promised to suspend ICBM and nuclear tests and to raze his country's northeastern nuclear-test facilities and destroy the network of tunnels.

The North also said it would invite foreign journalists to a ceremony later this week, although Seoul said Friday that the North did not respond to its list of journalists selected to go.

The North already has removed key buildings at the Punggye-ri site, according to the website 38 North, which monitors North Korean activity.

Commercial satellite images from May 15 also indicate additional steps toward closure, including the possible preparations to build a safe reviewing stand for visitors, 38 North said.

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Taiwan's president pledges more security

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan's president said Sunday her government will step up security measures to respond to military threats from China.

President Tsai Ing-wen gave no details in comments posted online but her government has encouraged development of a domestic arms industry in response to pressure from Beijing, which claims the island as its own territory and has sent fighter planes near its coast.

"We will strengthen our work for the whole society's security," Tsai wrote in response to questions from the public. She said her government will "especially look out for these factors from China."

Taiwan and the communist mainland, separated since a civil war in 1949, have extensive trade and investment ties but no official relations.

Tsai, elected in 2016, rejects Beijing's contention they are "one China" and must unite.

The mainland government of President Xi Jinping has responded with shows of force and diplomatic efforts to persuade the few countries that recognize Taiwan as an independent country to switch ties to Beijing.

The Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, has sent fighter planes near Taiwan's coast a dozen times since Tsai's election and an aircraft carrier sailing through the 110-mile-wide strait that separates them.

Beijing has threatened to attack if Taiwan declares formal independence or delays talks on unification. Government surveys in Taiwan show most of the island's 23 million people prefer to maintain their autonomy.

According to Tsai's office, members of the public left 56 questions about cross-strait relations on her office's Facebook page ahead of Sunday's event.

One asked what she will do to "get rid" of China's "channels to infiltrate into Taiwan." Tsai said she would respond directly but said as a "polite president" she would shake hands with Xi.

The president appeared to be trying to use the online forum to allay public fears and reach out to younger Taiwanese rather than expand on her China policy, said George Hou, an assistant professor of mass communications at Taiwan's I-Shou University.

The flybys and aircraft carrier movement have alarmed people in Taiwan, prompting questions about whether Tsai is handling the situation appropriately.

"She probably considered that she should make some connections with younger friends," Hou said. "China-Taiwan policies haven't changed in the past year. China needs to change."

WORLD

Royal family thanks wedding watchers

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — The royal family, blessed with fantastic weather and a buoyant public mood at the royal wedding, has thanked people who attended or watched Prince Harry marry Meghan Markle.

The family tweeted its thanks late Saturday night while Harry and his bride were attending a private soiree hosted by Harry's father, Prince Charles.

"Thank you to everyone who came to Windsor and those who followed from around the UK, the Commonwealth, and the world," the royals said.

The happy couple arrived in style — with Harry at the wheel of a rare, 1968 Jaguar sports car converted to electric power. He wore a tightly fitting tuxedo — shades of James Bond — while Markle wore a white Stella McCartney number.

Kensington Palace did not release details, but photographs showed Markle, now known formally as the Duchess of Sussex, wearing a large, emerald-cut aquamarine ring that had belonged to Harry's mother, Princess Diana, to the reception.

The prominent display of the ring, which Diana wore often, was one more sign of the royal couple's desire to honor Harry's late mother, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997.

Diana's older sister gave a formal reading during the ceremony, and many of her relatives were in attendance despite Prince Charles's bitter divorce from Diana.

The spectacular photos and footage of the wedding and procession that followed were seen around the world, leaving a lingering feeling of romance in the air.

Former Cabinet minister Peter Mandelson told ITV Sunday that the wedding was so moving that he is now considering propos-



EMILIO MORENATTI/AP

Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle wave to the crowd after their wedding ceremony at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle near London on Saturday.

ing marriage to his longtime partner.

"People all over the country are going to feel inspired, they are all going to want to run out and get married now," he said.

Singer Adele posted a message Sunday wishing the couple well and honoring Diana's memory.

"Congratulations Meghan and Harry," she said on Instagram. "You're the most beautiful bride. I can't stop thinking of how happy Princess Diana is upstairs x."

Harry and Markle spent their first night as a married couple at Windsor Castle. They are breaking with tradition by delaying a honeymoon and are expected to return to their living quarters at Kensington Palace in London.

Harry and Markle will fulfill their first royal engagement as

a married couple Tuesday when they attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace to honor Prince Charles and his charity work. Charles will mark his 70th birthday later this year.

Before the wedding, Markle said she wanted to take up royal duties immediately. She has long been active in support of a number of causes and charities.

Palace officials have been vague about the couple's plans, but they are expected to take a honeymoon in the near future.

No destination has been announced.

Harry took Markle on holiday in Botswana when they were dating, and it is possible he will choose one of his favorite African locations for the idyll.



PETER DEINO/AP

A woman, wearing a mask with Prince Harry's face, poses for a photo taken after the wedding.

Company in Cuba crash had safety complaints

HAVANA — Damojh, the Mexican charter company whose plane crashed in Havana had been the subject of two serious complaints over the last decade.

The plane that crashed, a Boeing 737, was barred from Guyanese airspace last year after authorities discovered that its crew had been allowing overloading of luggage on flights to Cuba.

Cuban Transportation Minister Adel Yzquierdo Rodriguez said the jet's "black box" voice recorder had been recovered, and Cuban officials had granted a U.S. request for investigators from Boeing to travel to the island.

Maduro favored as Venezuelans vote

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro is expected to win a second six-year term in Sunday's election, despite a deepening crisis that's made food scarce and inflation soar as oil production in the once wealthy nation plummets.

Polls show Venezuelans blame Maduro for their mounting troubles, he's still heavily favored to win thanks to a boycott of the election by his main rivals.

Maduro's main rival, independent candidate Henri Falcon, has condemned Maduro as the "candidate of hunger," and campaigned on a promise to dollarize wages pulverized by five-digit inflation, accept humanitarian aid and seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund.

Bishop sorry for delays investigating abuse

SANTIAGO, Chile — A Chilean bishop apologized Saturday for not promptly investigating a reported case of sexual abuse in his diocese, a day after every bishop in the South American country offered to resign over what Pope Francis said was their negligence in protecting children.

Bishop Alejandro Goic apologized for his actions referring to abuse investigations made in a report by Chilean television against priest Luis Rubio.

In the report, Rubio acknowledged having sent pictures of himself naked to a false profile of a minor set up on Facebook to catch him.

Scholar: Dumping fossil fuels by 2050 needed

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Getting rid of fossil fuels by mid-century and making the switch to large-scale renewable energy sources and ways of production offers the best chance of meeting the climate change targets set out by the Paris accord, a prominent American economist said Friday.

Columbia University Professor Jeffrey Sachs said the world's ways of producing energy need to change "much faster, much more dramatically" than political leaders understand.

Sachs says the best approach is to set up interconnected power grids where emissions-free electricity from renewable energy sources in one region could be transmitted elsewhere.

From wire reports

Ebola deaths rise to 26, Congo health ministry says

By SALEH MWANAMILONGO
Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo — Congo's health ministry says there is one new death from Ebola, bringing to 26 the number of deaths from the deadly outbreak in Equateur province in the country's northwest.

Four new cases have been confirmed as Ebola, said the health ministry in a statement Sunday. A total of 46 cases of hemorrhagic fever have been reported in the current outbreak, including 21 confirmed cases of Ebola, 21 probable and four suspected.

Congo President Joseph Kabila and his Cabinet agreed Saturday to increase funds for the Ebola emergency response. The Cabinet endorsed the decision to provide free health care in the affected areas and to provide special care to all Ebola victims and their

relatives.

The spread of Ebola from a rural area to Mbandaka, a city of more than 1 million people, has raised alarm as the deadly disease can spread more quickly in densely populated urban centers.

The World Health Organization on Friday decided not to declare the outbreak a global health emergency, but it called the risk of spread within Congo "very high" and warned nine neighboring countries that the risk to them was high.

A new experimental Ebola vaccine will be used to try to contain the outbreak. The vaccine is still in the test stages, but it was effective in the West Africa outbreak a few years ago. Vaccinations are expected to start Monday, with more than 4,000 doses in Congo and more on the way.

A major challenge will be keep-

ing the vaccines cold in this vast, impoverished, tropical country where infrastructure is poor.

While Congo has contained several Ebola outbreaks in the past, all of them were based in remote rural areas. The virus has twice made it to Kinshasa, Congo's capital of 10 million people, but was rapidly stopped.

Health officials are trying to track down more than 500 people who have been in contact with those feared infected, a task that became more urgent with the spread to Mbandaka, which lies on the Congo River, a busy traffic corridor.

The outbreak was declared more than a week ago in Congo's remote northwest.

A teacher in Mbandaka, Jean Mopono, 53, said they were trying to implement preventative measures by teaching students not to

greet each other by shaking hands or kissing.

The WHO appears to be moving swiftly to contain this latest epidemic, experts said. The health organization was accused of bungling its response to the earlier West Africa outbreak, which resulted in more than 11,000 deaths.

There is "strong reason to believe this situation can be brought under control," said Robert Steffen, who chaired the WHO expert meeting last week. But without a vigorous response, "the situation is likely to deteriorate significantly," he said.

This is Congo's ninth Ebola outbreak since 1976, when the disease was first identified. The virus is initially transmitted to people from wild animals, including bats and monkeys. It is spread via contact with bodily fluids of those infected.

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OMBUDSMAN/OPINION

Stripes shouldn't abandon reader voices

By TOBIAS NAEGELE
Stars and Stripes Ombudsman

Stars and Stripes suspended its comments section May 10. Most likely, you didn't notice.

The change was not announced. The comments and links simply disappeared from the desktop version of the site. For now, comments are still enabled for some mobile app users (the iPad, for example, but not the iPhone), but that is temporary.

Stars and Stripes Editor Terry Leonard said a hiring freeze imposed on the Defense Media Activity, Stripes' parent organization, drove the decision. "Manpower shortages have left the organization without the personnel to effectively moderate the posts to ensure a healthy comment environment," he said. He added that Stripes might consider restoring comments for specific stories "as the topic warrants."

Realistically, though, that's not likely. In the six days following the suspension, only five readers contacted Stripes' service desk about the change; only one objected. One more reader contacted me. So ends an era.

Stripes' online comments were dominated by a few regular posters and ranged from a dozen or two to as many as 100 comments per day. By contrast, Stripes' Facebook page can generate hundreds of comments for a given article and sometimes thousands in a day.

If this was a contest, Facebook won out. News outlets have long wrestled with the challenges of maintaining a vibrant and civil comments section. Vibrant isn't the hard part — it's keeping debate civil that's difficult. It's usually a losing battle.

Just as otherwise reasonable people may act like animals in traffic, normally respectful human beings can turn vile when sitting in front of a keyboard and screen. The combination of anonymity and physical separation brings out the worst in many of us.

Not so long ago, readers invested time, thought and energy to carefully craft letters to the editor. They did so with the sincere hope that their ideas would rise above the competition and their names would make it into print. Whether letter writers pointed out injustice, noted errors, offered clarifications or alternative perspectives, questioned headlines or challenged conclusions, the one thing they did was add to the quality of the whole. It takes more time to edit for space and, as a result, word reading. You learned things there you wouldn't get anywhere else.

In the 1990s, when I was editor of the

weekly Navy Times, we fielded 50 to 80 letters a week. Competition to get into print was stiff. Readers rose — and wrote — to the occasion. Stripes, with its daily circulation on two continents, had a similarly robust letters section back then. Not anymore. Today, Stripes receives just a few letters to the editor a year.

Online comments killed letters to the editor. Then Facebook killed online comments.

As soon as readers discovered they could comment on an article and see their words — and even responses — instantly, rather than waiting days or weeks, the letters section was doomed. Why sweat the details crafting a 100-word letter that might get quipped and pushed to live in seconds?

Managing comments was initially seen as an editorial responsibility across the industry. But that proved highly challenging. Creativity knows no bounds when it comes to circumventing rules, especially automated enforcement. Banned words were easily overcome by creative misspellings. And speed and volume were overwhelming. Before, editors controlled the pace and timing of their letters reviews; self-posted comments reversed the process. Suddenly, the readers had the upper hand.

Legal concerns also entered into the fray. In print, publishers were responsible for the words they printed, so they were obligated to closely monitor and edit letters. Online, however, courts found that publishers could escape responsibility if they simply acted as a pass-through medium. Combined with the volume and time involved, most abandoned moderation altogether.

Legally speaking, comments were less like letters to the editor than banter in a bar. Like bar owners, publishers aim to establish a threshold for acceptable behavior in their spaces, because ugliness is bad for business. But finding the balance between lively debate and rank distastefulness isn't easy. It only takes one comment to send a comment string off topic, and that can happen multiple times in a string.

Active moderation is much harder than it looks. Like a cop assigned to a rough neighborhood, moderators see the worst their community dishes out. Making matters worse, commenters hide behind a veneer of anonymity, using creative pseudonyms that hint at who they are or deceptively imply they're someone very different. My view: Ben naegele undermines the integrity of the conversation, making it easier for participants to behave poorly and devolve into personal attacks.

Good citizens steer clear of bad neigh-

borhoods, so comments sections often become a men of bullies and cowards. On the most brutal verbal combats survive.

This is why most publishers either shut down their comments sections or abandoned moderation and left the readers to themselves years ago. Moderation is a no-win game.

Yet commenting is hardly dead. Stripes played this game on two fronts for years — maintaining both its online comments and a robust Facebook page. Rather than leave its site bereft of comments, Stripes now has the opportunity to meld its strong Facebook presence and site by using Facebook for inline comments. Take a look at ArmyTimes.com for a sense of how this works.

Facebook accounts for some 20 percent of Stripes' internet traffic and represents a much larger and more diverse audience than the denizens of the now-defunct comments section. And because Facebook requires a name — and most users rely on Facebook to keep in touch with friends and family — Facebook users usually are who they say they are. With comments seen by spouses, children, parents, friends and co-workers, they are also more likely to be civil (note I said more likely — unfortunately, there is plenty of uncouth behavior on Facebook, as well).

While most Facebook comments are brief and glib, substantive and deep comments do stand out. These add value to the conversation.

For my money, it never made sense to have two separate comment streams — one online and moderated and another on Facebook and barely moderated. But it makes even less sense to have no comments on the site. Not having comments diminishes the community aspect of the site. Adding Facebook comments would not only preserve reader interaction but also introduce more active-duty voices in the conversation — something too often missing today.

I asked some of the more frequent commenters on Stripes.com their thoughts on the recent change in comments policy. "I am more or less ambivalent," wrote one who acknowledged the nastiness of the banter there. "My thoughts? Well, maybe it is for the best."

Maybe it is. News sites, like newspapers before them, are valuable places to share knowledge, insight and opinion. Sharing Facebook comments inline with the articles on Stripes.com may not always raise the level of debate. But even if it does so only sometimes, it's worth it.

Tell me what you think — write to me at naegele.tobias@stripes.com.

Maybe now Farenthold can pay back taxpayers

The Washington Post

Disgraced ex-Congressman Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, made even clearer last week that he turned from Congress — was well-served — and raised questions about a Texas port would want him to be the public face of its operation.

Farenthold resigned last month amid allegations that he sexually harassed members of his staff, used official money for campaign purposes and lied in testimony to the House Ethics Committee. A former staffer lodged complaints several years ago, before she took an \$84,000 settlement to drop the matter. But that \$84,000 came from a public fund, not from Farenthold's own pocket, despite the fact that the former congressman has a net worth well beyond \$2 million.

Before his abrupt departure, he promised to reimburse the taxpayers. "I didn't do anything wrong, but I also don't want taxpayers to be on the hook for this," he said.

Yet on Tuesday, he appeared determined to break his promise. "I will say that on the record," he said, "I have been advised by my attorneys not to repay that," Farenthold told an ABC News reporter. "That's why it hasn't been repaid."

Farenthold

There does not appear to be a legal way to require the former congressman to keep his word and pay up. But the rights and wrongs here are not complicated. Using

the public's money to cover up sexual harassment claims in a congressional office should never have been an option. Farenthold pretended to understand this while he was still in office; he brazenly shed any shame after he left public service.

Since leaving office, Farenthold has secured a well-lubricated job as legislative liaison for the Port of Port Lavaca-Point Comfort or Shipyard terminal in north of Corpus Christi, Texas. Maybe they are just showing their gratitude: The Washington Examiner reported that two years ago Farenthold secured \$2.14 million for new dredging at the port. Now he will get \$160,000 per year.

Having spun alleged piggishness and clear broken promises into a cushy new gig, the least he can do is pay back that \$84,000, as promised.

OPINION

To succeed with N. Korea, be prepared for failure

Bloomberg Opinion

North Korea's latest threats haven't yet doomed the summit planned between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un — but they underscore a vital point: The White House should prepare itself and the American people for failure.

Comments from one of the North's top nuclear negotiators have exposed a basic contradiction in the adversaries' approaches to the June 12 meeting in Singapore. The U.S. wants to set a quick timetable for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs — what it calls “complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.” Kim says he wants to “denuclearize,” but has a much longer timeframe in mind — one that could last decades, until North Korea no longer feels threatened. In the meantime, he expects trade, investment and aid.

None of this should be shocking. The North has merely clarified its opening position. The U.S. could stand to be a bit clearer as well. North Korea seems to have been provoked by the comments of national security adviser John Bolton, who says Kim should ship his entire nuclear arsenal to the U.S., as former Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi did, before sanctions are relaxed. Gadhafi's fate may not recommend this ap-



Ahn Young-joon/AP

People watch a TV screen showing file footage of President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on May 13.

proach to Kim.

The U.S. shouldn't soften its position — but it needs to speak with one measured voice about what denuclearization means. Other countries, which have helped bring pressure to bear, need to believe the U.S. is

approaching the talks in good faith.

The U.S. should also be playing down expectations for the summit. Some American officials seem eager to demonstrate that Trump was right to agree to meet Kim without winning any concrete concessions first

(or that the U.S. president already deserves a Nobel Prize). Such talk increases the pressure on Trump to return with something, anything, he can call a win. Better to say how unlikely a breakthrough will be and make the North understand it will have to make material concessions to achieve one.

The differences may turn out to be unbridgeable, and the U.S. should be ready to walk away. Kim can afford to engage in a failing process. The longer talks drag on, the greater the chances that sanctions enforcement will weaken, particularly along the Chinese border.

If the summit fails, maintaining the global campaign of “maximum pressure” against the North — especially the unprecedented trade restrictions imposed by China in the past year — won't be easy if there's a breakdown. That means Trump should already be discussing with Chinese President Xi Jinping how far the U.S. is and isn't willing to go, and how China will respond in the event of a breakdown. The same goes for South Korea (where expectations are running inordinately high), Japan and Russia.

If talks fail, and those nations aren't willing to follow Washington's lead, the U.S. is setting itself up for a bigger failure than a busted summit.

Symptom of a rough Genesis rollout: Slow Rx fills on base

By TOM PHILPOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

Tricare users filling prescriptions at test sites for MHS Genesis are likely the patient group most frustrated by the new electronic health record system, which is commercially designed and to be phased in across all of military health care by 2022 and adopted as well to modernize record keeping in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system.

“With the [new] system for pharmacy it's an all-day event” to get a new prescription filled, complained Alice Dowie, a retired Air Force Reserve officer who uses Madigan Army Medical Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Lakewood, Wash. “You can take a number, go to the PX, go to the commissary, have lunch and still have a wait when you return. Not customer friendly for sick people.”

“Pull a ticket [at the pharmacy] and I've waited as long as three-and-a-half hours” to fill a new prescription, said retired Army Warrenton Officer Roy Peterson, 74, who lives an hour from Madigan in Graham, Wash. “Now I've gotten smarter. When I go to the hospital, if I think I'm going to get a new prescription, I'll pull one of those tickets right away. But when I finished with my appointment, I'll still wait two more hours before I've got my prescription.”

Madigan is the largest of four military treatment facilities testing the new electronic health record system. The other three — Naval Hospital Bremerton, Fairchild Air Force Base hospital and Naval Harbor Clinic Oak Harbor — have all seen pharmacy operations slow dramatically as they struggle to adapt to MHS Genesis.

Pharmacy staff at Madigan and Oak Harbor answered a series of questions we posed to learn why the new electronic record has, at a minimum, tripled wait times for prescriptions. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Thomas Cantilina, acting financial champion for MHS Genesis at the Defense Health Agency, also shared his insights.

Overall, however, it was an unpleasant week for those associated with the \$4.3 billion MHS Genesis contract after the online news site Politico reported on an April 30 “partial” assessment of the new system

MILITARY UPDATE

prepared by Robert F. Behler, the Defense Department's director of operational test and evaluation.

“MHS Genesis is neither operationally effective nor operationally suitable” to replace the military's current health record systems, Behler wrote. It fails to “demonstrate enough workable functionality to manage and document patient care.” Also, test sites have suffered from “poor system usability, insufficient training and inadequate helpdesk support.”

Madigan was the lone test site of the four not assessed by the test team but will be later this year. In a news conference Friday, officials tasked with fielding MHS Genesis suggested the test director's critique was more helpful than alarming, part of a planned process to use expert and user feedback to improve the system at every step of phased deployment emphasizing safety and quality health care.

Not one thing the test directorate unveiled in its 16-page report “surprised us because we were so in lockstep communicating with” the four test sites during system rollout, said Staci A. Cummings, the program executive at the Defense Department responsible for modernizing the military's health record system.

Cummings noted, however, that the testing done was completed in late 2017, and that Genesis has benefited since then from multiple changes to work flow and revised system rules to accommodate a vast and complex health network.

“We think that the test community gave us the recommendations we would have given ourselves, which is we need to do some work, we needed to test it, and further deployment to inpatient facilities in Western states is not scheduled to happen until 2019, so we remain in line with our acquisition timeline,” she said.

On the slowdown in prescription fills, Cummings and Cantilina acknowledged that the Cerner software, widely used in the commercial sector, has forced on-base pharmacies to change workflows and to use enhanced safety checks, increasing

tasks for pharmacists and diminishing the role of pharmacy techs.

Under legacy system rules, military physicians could prescribe only medicines stocked at base pharmacies. So care providers, in effect, did a required first check on availability of drugs, in required dosage, using drug identification data for the base.

As a physician, Cantilina said, “I was in essence doing the pharmacist's job in our legacy system, something you would never see in the commercial world.”

Under Genesis, physicians prescribe from a wider array of drugs, so base pharmacists now must take the extra step of ensuring that the medicine prescribed, or an appropriate substitute, is in stock, in the right dosage, before accepting the prescription — in addition to verifying, later in the fill cycle as they always have, that the right medicine has been pulled, bottled and is ready to dispense.

The pharmacy at Fairchild's base hospital was the first to go live with Genesis early last year. System designers elected not to pre-load National Provider Identification codes of every civilian physician writing prescriptions for military beneficiaries. That left the Fairchild pharmacy staff to find and enter into MHS Genesis the unique provider code with every prescription presented from a civilian doctor. That added to patient wait time for every new prescription filled.

“In our legacy systems we had thousands of downtown providers with an associated NPI. Initially we did not transfer or load them because we wanted a clean start of the data in MHS Genesis system,” Cantilina said. On seeing the impact, however, a lesson was learned and legacy NPI codes were preloaded for Oak Harbor, Bremerton and Madigan.

Today at Fairchild, prescription fills average nine minutes, lower than the 12-minute average before MHS Genesis, Cantilina said. He credited improved automation and a reorientation of staff to maximize efficiency. Prescription fill times remain high at the other test sites, particularly at Madigan, which serves a large retiree population, and Oak Harbor, maybe “because they're on an island,” he said.

At Madigan, wait times “increased near-

ly threefold in the first few months following MHS Genesis go-live in October 2017,” officials said. After peaking in January, wait times improved, but are still greater than pre-MHS Genesis. That is largely due to added safety checks on the new system. Madigan hired more pharmacists but wait times remain longer under the legacy record system. “The process required to safely process each prescription simply takes more time” under MHS Genesis, said Madigan officials.

At Oak Harbor, before Genesis, prescriptions for active-duty patients were filled in 10 to 15 minutes and for non-active-duty patients in 20 to 30 minutes. Average wait times grew to 105 minutes two months after go-live, officials said, before work flow changes, more staff and system familiarity lowered the average to 35 minutes.

Wait times rose again, to 50 minutes on average, when Tricare co-pays for prescriptions filled by mail order or at retail outlets jumped Feb. 1. The base pharmacy, where medicines are still dispensed for free, saw a 30 percent pop in total number of prescriptions written by civilian providers in the Tricare network.

“Unfortunately, the types of prescriptions returning to the MTF from Home Delivery are polypharmacy, maintenance medications which are more complex to process and therefore have a disproportionate high impact on wait times,” Oak Harbor officials explained.

Behler's test report said that pharmacists, “in particular, found the [new] system difficult to use” and saw workdays extended “due to longer prescription order workflows” and “interface problems” between MHS Genesis and safety check sources.

Commanding officers at both Oak Harbor and Madigan said start-up difficulties are being addressed, though pre-MHS Genesis wait times won't return soon. The new system, however, has deepened safety checks and features, including the ability for base pharmacies, when they can't fill a prescription, to send it electronically to Tricare mail order if beneficiaries agree to accept the co-pay.

Sends comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

WORLD

Craft beers flow in middle-class China

By SAM McNEIL
AND FU TING
Associated Press

SHANGHAI — “Panda Beer,” “Little General,” “Flying Fist IPA” and “Mandarin Wheat” are among the offerings on tap at a craft beer exhibition in Shanghai dedicated to expanding the palette of Chinese consumers and promoting sales of high-end brews.

The 2018 Craft Beer of China Exhibition features breweries like Rasenburg Beer, Myth Monkey Brewing, Lazy Taps, Goose Island and Boxing Cat Brewery that are sharing tips on the latest technology and sales trends as Chinese shift from legacy brews to more experimental, refined and expensive flavors.

From taps at the expo flowed creative mixes of flavors and traditions, a swirling cocktail of Chinese ingredients, barley, hops and spices from around the world.

“After drinking it (craft beer), it feels much better than the domestic industry beer, and then you just can’t leave it,” said Yu Shiqi, 40, a craft beer consumer at the expo who dreams of brewing his own.

There’s the money to be made in China, which drinks a quarter of all beer worldwide, and small-batch brewers and giant multinationals are cashing in. Though craft beer is far from upstaging local beer behemoths like Tsingtao that dominate the \$28 billion national beer market, it is rising in popularity as small breweries open up in China’s major metropolitan areas like Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Craft beers are typically more expensive than mass-market, low-alcohol content brews like Budweiser and China’s Yanjing. But as China’s middle class grows, so too does its tastes for finer products.

A couple of years ago, craft beer made up only 0.3 percent of total beer consumption. It has since risen to about 5 percent, said Darren Guo, one of the exhibition’s organizers, who expects to see 50 percent growth in the craft beer market every year until 2020. “Beer culture is pretty much on the beginning or starting level.”

Laurel Liu, sales director of Beijing-based Jing-A brewery, said she gets calls from small towns asking how to start up a craft brewery.

“You don’t even expect them to have craft beer there but now they do,” Liu said. “I’m really surprised and happy to see now that craft beer in China is a thing, and it’s really easy to access these products now.”

More money was spent on beer in China than the U.S. in 2017, according to beer industry research firm Drink Sector. Craft brewers are “rapidly increasing” although foreign imports continue to dominate the high-end beer sector.

The Belgian-Brazilian firm Anheuser-Busch InBev, the maker of Budweiser, has invested heavily



PHOTOS BY SAM McNEIL/AP

Michael Jordan, right, talks to staff at the small-batch brewery run by Boxing Cat Brewery inside the Liquid Laundry gastropub in Shanghai.



A vendor waits for visitors at a beer booth at the 2018 Craft Beer of China Exhibition in Shanghai.

in China, building breweries and acquiring craft breweries like Shanghai’s Boxing Cat. Anheuser Busch also owns Goose Island, which is based in Chicago.

Michael Jordan, brew-master at Boxing Cat, and his staff experiment with flavors like egg tart, green tea, peppercorn, chai, kiwi, hibiscus and sweet potato.

Jordan chalks up some of the success of craft brewing in China to President Xi Jinping sharing a pint of IPA, or Indian Pale Ale, in 2015 in Britain with then-Prime Minister David Cameron.

“The ‘Xi phenomenon’ really kind of opened people’s eyes to IPA,” he said.



A woman drinks beer at a craft beer exhibition in Shanghai.



A man drinks beer at the 2018 Craft Beer of China Exhibition.



Attendees inspect brewing equipment at a Shanghai exhibition meant to promote craft beers in China.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Stylist threw client through window

NY NEW YORK — Police said a stylist at a Brooklyn barbershop threw a client through the front window after he complained about his haircut.

According to the Daily News of New York, the 33-year-old victim was at the Levels Barbershop in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, on Thursday afternoon. Police said he threatened to withhold payment for the cut because he didn't like it. The barber was enraged and shoved him through the storefront window, police said.

The victim's face was ripped open and his clothing was covered in blood. He was taken by ambulance to a hospital.

The stylist ran off. Other barbers there said they didn't know the stylist's name or how to reach him. Police are investigating.

Bear gets stuck inside mountain post office

CO PITKIN — Officials said a postal employee arrived at work in a Colorado mountain town to find a black bear stuck inside the post office.

A photo of the bear found Friday shows him on the ground amid a pile of newspapers, postal supplies and broken wood.

A spokesman for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Joe Lewandowski, said the bear had some kind of other incident last spring, indicated by the yellow tags on its ears, and relocated. It was euthanized by wildlife officers under the state's "two strike rule."

Lewandowski said the bear was able to open the unlocked door, which has a lever-like handle and swings in, but wasn't able to get back outside. He said the animal tore off some molding around windows in an apparent struggle to get out.

Missing Mary statue found after 2 years

VT LYNDONVILLE — A missing statue of the Virgin Mary stolen from a Vermont Nativity scene more than two years ago has been found unharmed and returned to its owner.

The statue was stolen from Lyndonville in January 2016 and it was recently discovered in an apartment house storage area by Lyndonville Police Chief Jack Harris, acting on a tip. It was returned to the Lyndon Ecumenical Council.

The Caledonian Record reported Municipal Administrator Justin Smith recognized the missing statue in photos of the building's interior taken by the town health officer during an inspection.

Police said mostly college students live in the building and it will be impossible to determine how it got there.

Revolutionary War soldier, slave, honored

NH PLAINFIELD — A Revolutionary War soldier and slave is being commemorated for his service by the descendants of the people who enslaved him.

THE CENSUS

2

The number of times, in three days, that a kangaroo escaped from its South Carolina enclosure. Maj. Robert Christie, of the McCormick County Sheriff's Office, said authorities haven't discovered how the animal escaped, but it's likely the kangaroo found a weak spot in the fence or a gate left open. The kangaroo's Houdini act was first noticed Tuesday when, according to Sheriff Clark Sterns, calls came streaming in about a kangaroo sighting. Sterns said its owner was able to corral the animal.



BILL SIMES/AP

Honoring veterans

The USS Constitution glides through Boston Harbor past the city skyline on a cruise to honor Vietnam veterans on Friday. The ship gave a 21-gun salute in the direction of Boston's Vietnam Memorial.

A ceremony to commemorate the headstone at the final resting place of Derrick Oxford in Plainfield was scheduled over the weekend at the Coryville Cemetery.

Jane Stephenson, of the Plainfield Historical Society, worked for more than a year with the Department of Veterans Affairs to have the headstone carved.

New Hampshire Public Radio reported that Stephenson reached out to some of Oxford's descendants. Stephenson said descendants of the family that enslaved Oxford for part of his life also planned to attend.

Hunt is on for tagged lobster raffle tickets

ME PORTLAND — This scavenger hunt is a hunt for scavengers.

Interstate fishermen are asking fishermen to check traps for lobsters carrying special green tags. The tags are part of a data collection program being conducted from May to November by the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and the University of Rhode Island.

The Atlantic States Marine

Fisheries Commission, which is promoting the program, said the program will collect data on lobster and crab abundance off New England. Organizers of the effort want to know the date, location and tag number of the lobsters. Each tag also constitutes an entry in a raffle in which three winners will get \$100.

Protesters target lawyer in viral rant

NY NEW YORK — A mariachi band has per-

formed songs like "La Cucaracha" during a protest in front of the building where the lawyer caught on video ranting against Spanish-speaking workers lives.

The protesters Friday asked for the disbarment of attorney Aaron Schlossberg. They sang along with the mariachi band and carried signs that read "Se habla Spanish" and "Racism, no Bueno."

Man shot, thinks he's having allergic reaction

PA CHAMBERSBURG — First responders who were called to help a man thought to be suffering from an allergic reaction said he actually had bullet holes in his neck.

The Public Opinion reported emergency workers found the man in Chambersburg on Wednesday with two gunshot wounds in the back of his neck.

Police went to the area where the shooting was believed to have happened and found a man who said he had assisted the victim.

The man who assisted said he was John Black, 54, and acknowledged shooting the victim with a .22-caliber rifle that he thought was unloaded. Black was charged with discharge of a firearm and recklessly endangering.

Officer's belt stops bullet in close call

AZ TUCSON — Tucson police said an officer narrowly escaped injury during a domestic violence incident when a bullet hit the officer's belt.

Sgt. Pete Dugan said the officer was one of two responding to a call at a home Friday night when gunfire broke out.

Dugan said no one was injured, but Police Chief Chris Magnus said in a Twitter post Saturday that the incident was "way, way, way too close a call."

Police said the suspect was arrested after the officers fired back.

The identities of the officers and the suspect weren't released.

Lawman's stolen badge returned 50 years later

SD SIOUX FALLS — A former South Dakota lawman has his badge back more than 50 years after it was stolen.

Gene Abdallah was a Minnehaha County deputy in 1965 when a teenager swiped his badge. On Thursday, Duke Tufty, 69, a minister in Kansas City, Mo., returned the badge to Abdallah, 82.

The Argus Leader reported Abdallah had apprehended Tufty and another 16-year-old for underage drinking and driving and was taking them to jail when the deputy stopped for coffee.

Tufty said he took the badge from Abdallah's jacket and put it in his shoe.

From wire reports



FACES

Actor: 'It's an extraordinary stretch of one man's life'

Cumberbatch gets to let go with role in a new Showtime series

By Rick Bentley
Tribune News Service

Benedict Cumberbatch always has been eager to embrace acting challenges, whether finding a way in "Sherlock" to bringing new life to a character played countless times in TV or film or to making one of the Marvel Comics Universe's lesser characters in "Doctor Strange" compelling enough to make him stand cape-to-cape with the other heroes. He's upped his acting game again, starring in the new five-part limited Showtime series "Patrick Melrose."

The premium channel series is based on the much heralded "Patrick Melrose" series of semi-autobiographical novels written by Edward St. Aubyn dealing with his growing up in a highly dysfunctional upper-class English family. The role is complicated, but Cumberbatch was well aware of what it would take to bring the character to life because he's been a longtime fan of the book series. He was so determined to get the production made, he not only is starring in the series, but is also an executive producer.

"He's one of the most, I think, if not the most extraordinary prose stylists working in the English language," Cumberbatch says of St. Aubyn's writing.

"And via the most richly comic, scalpel-

Benedict Cumberbatch is the title character in "Patrick Melrose." The limited series airs on Showtime.

Showtime



like postmortem upper-class system that's crumbling, a power related to that that dissolves as the stories continue," he says. "And not just cash-poor landed gentry, but just the inherent snobbery, the treachery, the self-loathing, the cynicism, the patronizing attitudes, the racism, the sexism, all the -isms. How they were exposed and rightly vilified in the most humorous, entertaining and at times terrifyingly dark and real ways. It's an extraordinary stretch of one man's life."

Each episode of the series is devoted to one of the five novels. Melrose's story is told over the decades starting with him as an innocent child and going through him being a self-destructive 20-year-old to a sober 30-something drawn back to more addictions. Cumberbatch saw so much detail in the books and how deep St. Aubyn had written the character, his only concern was whether he could do justice to the work.

The series is vastly different than the work he's done in "Sherlock," "Doctor Strange" or even "The Imitation Game." So much of his performance with those characters required him to keep control on his emotions. "Patrick Melrose" gives Cumberbatch the freedom to be more expressive.

"One is emotionally very introverted, and it's also oppression. And the other one, it's all on the sleeve and to the point that paranoid schizophrenia rears its head and really would take him over in a second," he says.

Executive producer Michael Jackson watched in awe of not only how Cumberbatch was able to handle the role that covered two decades, but how in a scene where Melrose is in the throes of his heroin addiction and hearing voices, Cumberbatch acts out each one, essentially playing five or six characters in one scene. Jackson calls it "an incredible achievement of acting."

'Arrested Development' stars stand by co-star Tambor at season premiere event

From wire services

The creator and executive producer of "Arrested Development" acknowledges that some people will not like his decision to keep Jeffrey Tambor on the show after allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced last October.

"Good people will find this offensive," explained Mitchell Hurwitz. "I, too, get worked up when I hear about Harvey Weinstein and other people who have taken advantage of people. But I also believe very strongly that we don't want to live in a world where accusations ruin people's lives. We have tried that as a human race and it doesn't always, doesn't work out great, you know? So accusations are very different than proof and, you know, we obviously are going to support people that haven't done, that haven't been proved guilty."

Hurwitz said production was nearly wrapped on season five when news broke of the allegations made by Tambor's former assistant and an actress on his

other show, "Transparent." "Not only do I support him as a friend, but I've known him for 20 years. I've worked with him for 20 years and I've never seen any behavior like that described. I've never, even in private, he's never been in any way inappropriate about, we don't talk about women or objectify. It's just not who he is, and he's got a lot of things that I'd like to list, a lot of really bad qualities I'd like to list for you now, but nowhere there, in my experience, is any kind of creep," said Hurwitz.

The "Arrested Development" cast unanimously supported the 73-year-old actor at the Los Angeles premiere May 17 for the cult comedy's 15th season. The event also marked one of the first public appearances for Tambor in recent months. Tambor posed for photos with his wife, Kasia Ostun, but didn't do interviews with the press.

"We are a family and it's great to have everybody in the family here," said co-star Will Arnett.

Tambor denies the misconduct claims that led to his firing on Amazon's "Transparent" earlier this year. His "Arrested Development" co-stars said they could only speak to their own experiences with the Emmy-winning actor.

"All I know about is 'Arrested Development,' and he's always just been incredible with us and I'm really looking forward to seeing him tonight," Jason Bateman said before the screening.

The fifth season of Netflix's "Arrested Development" streams May 29 on Netflix.

MTV pauses 'Catfish' show for investigation

The network MTV has temporarily suspended shooting of "Catfish: The TV Show" while it investigates sexual misconduct accusations made by a woman who appeared on it three years ago.

Ayisha Morgan alleges in YouTube videos she was solic-

ited for sex by a "main person" on the show whom she identified by a made-up name, "Jack." She also said she woke up after drinking with a female producer with the woman "on top of me." At one point, Morgan said she joked with Jack about hiring her as his co-host.

The show's host and executive producer is Yaniv "Nev" Schulman, who denied the allegations in a statement May 17.

MTV says in a statement it takes "these allegations very seriously" and will conduct a thorough investigation while the show is on hiatus.

"Catfish" brings couples together who have interacted solely through the internet.

Others news

■ Imagine Alicia Keys talking about Nina Simone, or Ashley Judd on Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Keys and Judd are among the readers for an audio edition of "Good Night Stories for Rebel

Girls" and "Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls 2." The two audiobooks, coming out June 19 from Penguin Random House Audio, each feature 100 short biographies of famous women. The publisher told The Associated Press on May 18 that other pairings will include Esperanza Spalding reading about Audrey Hepburn and Danaï Gurira on Gloria Steinem.

■ Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is aiming for a young demographic. The New York Democrat is working on her first picture book, "Bolt & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote." Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers announced May 18 that the book will come out in November.

■ Mario Batali, who was fired from the ABC daytime talk show "The Chew" in December, won't be replaced, co-host Carla Hall told US Weekly. The chef co-hosted the show from 2011 to 2017 before being ousted amid multiple allegations of sexual assault.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Gay-friendly Apple weighs NC location despite LGBT laws

By EMERY P. DALESIO

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Gay rights advocates are divided on whether to cheer or bemoan a potential marriage between the state of North Carolina and one of the global corporations most friendly to LGBT workers and causes.

Feelings remain raw over North Carolina's so-called bathroom bill, which prompted a boycott campaign. Many advocates remain frustrated that a legislative compromise that put an end to the controversy still allows discrimination against them.

Apple Inc. is close to deciding whether to build a planned corporate hub in the Raleigh-Durham area, a North Carolina government official and an economic development official told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of confidentiality promises surrounding business recruitment.

The project could create 5,000 North Carolina jobs, with a later target of 10,000 jobs, the economic development official said. And while they denied any direct tie to the Apple decision, top state legislators committed last week to a major expansion of tax breaks for any employers promising thousands of jobs.

Some activists on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues think North Carolina remains a bad fit.

"Apple has an opportunity to lead by locating and investing in places that fully protect LGBTQ people. North Carolina is not one of those places," said Kate Oakley, of the Human Rights Campaign,



NG HAN GUAN/AP

Tim Cook, Apple CEO, speaks at an economic summit in March. Apple Inc. is thinking about building a new corporate campus in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., area.

the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization. The group gives Apple its highest corporate equality rating. When CEO Tim Cook came out in 2014, the group praised him as the first openly gay chief executive of a Fortune 500 company.

The law North Carolina legislators approved in March 2016, House Bill 2, required transgender people to use restrooms in many public buildings corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates. A replacement law approved a year later did away with that mandate, but said only the state legislature, not local governments, can make future bathroom rules. The replacement law also prohibits local governments from enacting new nondiscrimination ordinance-

es for workplaces, hotels and restaurants until December 2020.

Only Arkansas and Tennessee join North Carolina in expressly forbidding cities from adopting protections for LGBT residents, the Human Rights Campaign said. North Carolina also lacks statewide guarantees against discrimination in employment, housing, education and other arenas, the group said.

The rewritten law was apparently sufficient for other corporations and organizations that had boycotted the state after HB2's passage.

Credit Suisse specifically delayed adding 1,200 jobs at its North Carolina technology hub until HB2 was at least partially replaced. Sports leagues including the NBA, NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference decided to hold championship events in North Carolina again after HB2 was replaced.

Leaders from Equality North Carolina to Raleigh's LGBT Chamber of Commerce hope Apple's influence would increase pressure to change state laws.

"We see Apple as a top company in our country that has been honest in the front lines of protecting LGBTQ employees. They have a track record of doing that for decades," said the Rev. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, director of the Campaign for Southern Equality. "As they look at the prospect of locating operations here, our expectation would be that they be as vocal about this issue in North Carolina as they have been in other communities where they've had a footprint."

New policy lets anyone sit in Starbucks' cafes

By JOSEPH PISANI

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Starbucks announced a new policy Saturday that allows anyone to sit in its cafes or use its restrooms, even if they don't buy anything.

The new policy comes five weeks after two black men who hadn't bought anything were arrested at a Philadelphia Starbucks.

Company executives have said its previous policies were loose and ambiguous, leaving decisions on whether people could sit in its stores or use the restroom up to store managers.

Starbucks said it has told workers to consider anyone who walks into its stores a customer, "regardless of whether they make a purchase."

The company said anyone can use its cafes, patios or restrooms without buying anything, but it noted workers should still call the police if someone is a safety threat.

"We are committed to creating a culture of warmth and belonging where everyone is welcome," Starbucks said in a statement.

The two men who were arrested April 12 in Philadelphia were awaiting a third person for a meeting. One of them was denied use of a restroom because he hadn't bought anything. A worker called police, and the men, Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson, were arrested. They spent hours in jail before they were released.

The incident, video of which was posted on social media, was a major embarrassment for the coffee chain. Starbucks has long projected itself as a socially conscious company and promoted its stores as a neighborhood gathering place.

In response to the arrests, Starbucks plans to close more than 8,000 of its U.S. stores on the afternoon of May 29 for racial bias training for its employees.

The men who were arrested settled with Starbucks earlier this month for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education.

They also reached a deal with Philadelphia for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from city officials to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 21)	\$1.2092
Dollar buys (May 21)	69.8270
British pound (May 21)	\$1.38
Japanese yen (May 21)	108.90
South Korean won (May 21)	1,054.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3775
British pound	\$1.3482
Canada (Dollar)	1.2880
China (Yuan)	6.3822
Denmark (Krone)	6.3255
Egypt (Pound)	17.8110
Euro	\$1.1773/0.8494
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8515
Hungary (Forint)	270.27
Israel (Shekel)	3.5976
Japan (Yen)	110.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3020
Norway (Krone)	8.1087
Philippines (Peso)	52.38
Poland (Zloty)	3.65
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7594
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3430
South Korea (Won)	1,082.02
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9979
Thailand (Baht)	32.29
Turkey (Lira)	4.4820

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.69
3-month bill	1.90
30-year bond	3.22

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE

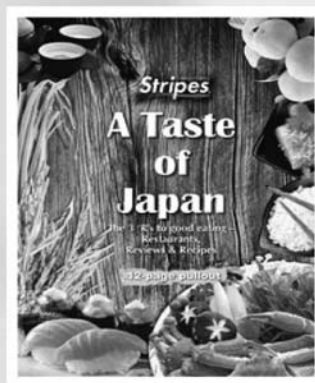
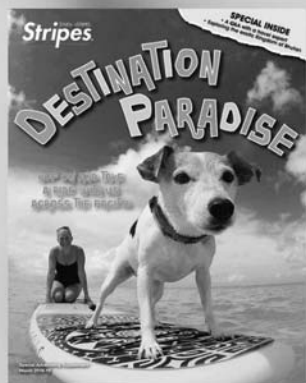


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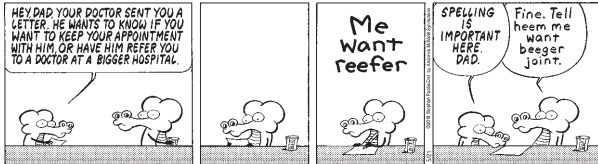
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



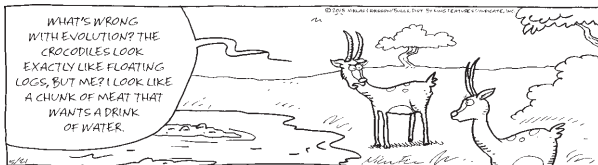
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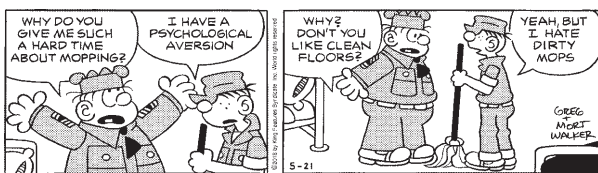
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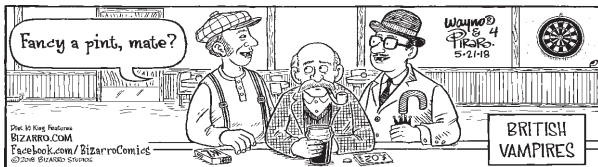
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Hacks with an axe
- 5 Science room
- 8 Dull pain
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Kitchen gadget brand
- 14 Three- — sloth
- 15 Split apart
- 16 Marine's motto, in brief
- 18 Place for a massage
- 20 "Jane Eyre" author
- 21 Chat
- 23 Long lunch?
- 24 Relating to the meaning of words

- 28 Squad
- 31 Mode lead-in
- 32 Sum
- 34 Caustic solution
- 35 Branch
- 37 School period
- 39 Club —
- 41 Appear
- 42 Orison
- 45 Chicken serving
- 49 Pasta wheat
- 51 Skin soother
- 52 "Wheel of Fortune" option

DOWN

- 3 Buddy
- 5 Scepters
- 55 Frog's relative
- 56 "A mouse!" brother
- 57 Sports figure?
- 21 Difficult
- 27 Returned
- 29 Nay undero
- 32 Undulating
- 33 Lusty look
- 35 Silicon Valley city
- 36 Past
- 6 Chopping tool
- 8 Broadway flop
- 42 "He!"
- 9 Midwestern farmland
- 43 Seized vehicle
- 44 Frost
- 46 Oodles
- 47 Pop
- 48 Try out
- 50 Scott's refusal

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	C	T	I		P	A	R	S	E
D	I	G	R	A	M	O	R	I	O	L
S	T	R	E	E	P		O	C	C	U
L	I	A	M		A	B	L	E		L
				A	R	I	A		D	A
A	L	E		E	R	S	E		P	A
R	E	N	E	D	E	S	C	A	R	T
F	A	C	E		D	O	O	M		E
				P	R	L	S		O	N
P	A	Y		T	O	N	O		Q	U
O	R	P	H	A	N				M	O
M	E	T	T	L	E				I	R
P	A	S	S	E	S				C	A

5-21

CRYPTOQUIP

AMEKBTDC JCGTYHB UDBLF
QKMOHBJDLAKM DYKGL
HEEHQLAOHCF NHHUAMZ
BAMZCHLJ AM LVH VDAB:
QGBC LDCN.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU CURSE LOUDLY DURING A BOARD MEETING, IT MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY A SHOCK-WORD SILENCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S


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Automotive 140

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Utility run around 280Euro a month Ready 1 July.
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No fee
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SCOREBOARD/AR RACING

College softball

NCAA Division I tournament

Double Elimination
(x-if necessary)
Super Region 12, Thursday, May 17
Drake 3, BYU 2
Oregon 4, Albany (NY) 0
Friday, May 18
Oregon 5, Drake 0
BYU 16, Albany (NY) 0, 5 innings, Albany eliminated
Drake 3, BYU 0, BYU eliminated
Saturday, May 19
Oregon 3, Drake 0, Oregon wins Eugene Regional

Columbia Regional
Friday, May 18
Liberty 2, Ohio 10, 10 innings
South Carolina 3, UNC Greensboro 0
Saturday, May 19
Liberty 3, South Carolina 1
Hofstra 6, UNC Greensboro 0, Greensboro eliminated
South Carolina 5, Hofstra 4, Hofstra eliminated

Game 5 — Liberty (46-12) vs. South Carolina (47-15)
x-Game 6 — Liberty vs. South Carolina
Athens Regional
Friday, May 18
Northwestern 3, California 2, 8 innings
Georgia 6, Harvard 2
Saturday, May 19
Georgia 12, Northwestern 0, 6 innings
Northwestern 0, Harvard 1, Harvard eliminated
Northwestern 6, California 3

Game 5 — Georgia (45-11) vs. Northwestern (36-15)
x-Game 6 — Georgia vs. Northwestern
Chattanooga Regional
Friday, May 18
Auburn 5, Tennessee 2
Florida 8, Jacksonville State 0, 5 innings

Saturday, May 19
Florida 5, Jacksonville State 8, Jacksonville State eliminated
Florida 3, Auburn 2, Auburn eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Florida 6, Jacksonville State (49-10) vs. Jacksonville State (24-24)

x-Game 7 — Florida 3 vs. Jacksonville State
Gainesville Regional
Friday, May 18
Ohio State 3, South Florida 1

Saturday, May 19
Ohio State 6, Bethune-Cookman 0, 6 innings
Florida eliminated, Bethune-Cookman 0, 6 innings
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Florida (52-8) vs. Ohio State (36-15)

x-Game 7 — Florida vs. Ohio State
Dayton Regional
Friday, May 18
Kentucky 4, UC 1
Michigan 10, Notre Dame 0
Michigan 6, UC 0, UC eliminated
Saturday, May 19
Game 5 — Notre Dame (33-22) vs. Michigan (33-19)
Game 6 — Kentucky (33-19) vs. Game 5 winner

Knoxville Regional
Friday, May 18
James Madison 2, Ohio 1
Tennessee 9, Monmouth 0, 5 innings
Saturday, May 19
Tennessee 12, James Madison 3, 6 innings
Ohio 4, Monmouth 0
Ohio 7, James Madison 3, James Madison eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Tennessee (47-12) vs. Ohio (40-16)
x-Game 7 — Tennessee vs. Ohio
Tuscaloosa Regional
Friday, May 18
Wisconsin 9, Oregon 3, 8 innings
Alabama 8, Middle Tennessee 0, 6 innings

Saturday, May 19
Alabama 4, Wisconsin 2
Oregon State 4, Middle Tennessee 0, Middle Tennessee eliminated
Oregon State 5, Wisconsin 1, Wisconsin eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Alabama (35-18) vs. Oregon State (24-24)

x-Game 7 — Alabama vs. Oregon State
Tenniss

Italian Open
Saturday
Rome
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Semifinals
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Novak Djokovic (11), Serbia (6-4), 5-7, 6-4
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-5

Semifinals
Elena Svitolina (4), Ukraine, def. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, 6-4, 6-3
Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Maria Sharapova, Russia, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4

Men
Semifinals
Novak Djokovic (11), Serbia (6-4), 5-7, 6-4
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-5

Singles
Men
Semifinals
Novak Djokovic (11), Serbia (6-4), 5-7, 6-4
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-5

Singles
Men
Semifinals
Novak Djokovic (11), Serbia (6-4), 5-7, 6-4
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-5

Singles
Men
Semifinals
Novak Djokovic (11), Serbia (6-4), 5-7, 6-4
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-5

Singles
Men
Semifinals
Novak Djokovic (11), Serbia (6-4), 5-7, 6-4
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-5

Fayetteville Regional

Friday, May 18
Wichita State 8, Oklahoma State 2
Arkansas 2, DePaul 0
Saturday, May 19
Arkansas 5, Wichita State 0
Oklahoma State 6, DePaul 0, DePaul eliminated
Wichita State 5, Oklahoma State 4, Oklahoma State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Arkansas (41-15) vs. Wichita State (32-22)

x-Game 7 — Arkansas vs. Wichita State
Baton Rouge Regional
Friday, May 18
Houston 1, Louisiana-Lafayette 0
LSU 9, Fordham 0, 5 innings

Saturday, May 19
LSU 1, Houston 0
Louisiana-Lafayette 15, Fordham 3, Fordham eliminated
Louisiana-Lafayette 7, Houston 2
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — LSU (43-14) vs. La-Lafayette (40-12)

x-Game 7 — LSU vs. La-Lafayette
Norman Regional
Friday, May 18
Tulsa 9, Mississippi 1
Oklahoma 9, Boston University 0

Saturday, May 19
Oklahoma 8, Tulsa 0
Missouri 10, Boston University 8, BU eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 5 — Tulsa (34-24) vs. Missouri (29-28)

x-Game 6 — Oklahoma (52-3) vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents
College Station Regional
Friday, May 18
Texas A&M 9, Baylor 0
Texas A&M 9, Prairie View 0, 5 innings

Saturday, May 19
Texas A&M 10, McNeese 1, 6 innings
Baylor 9, Prairie View 0, Prairie View eliminated
Baylor 6, McNeese 0, McNeese eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Texas A&M (42-16) vs. Baylor (38-17)

x-Game 7 — Texas A&M vs. Baylor
Seattle Regional
Friday, May 18
Washington 2, Boise State 0, 5 innings
Saturday, May 19
Washington 2, Boise State 3, Boise State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Washington (46-8) vs. Minnesota (41-16)
x-Game 7 — Washington vs. Minnesota
Los Angeles Regional
Friday, May 18
Cal State Fullerton 2, Texas State 1
UCLA 3, Sacramento State 0

Saturday, May 19
Cal State Fullerton 3, Texas State 1
UCLA 14, Sacramento State 4, Sacramento State eliminated
UCLA 14, Texas State 1, Texas State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)

x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Cal State Fullerton (35-23) vs. UCLA (34-25)
x-Game 7 — Cal State Fullerton vs. UCLA
Tempe Regional
Friday, May 18
Mississippi 9, Long Beach State 1
Arizona State 2, New Mexico State 0

Saturday, May 19
Arizona State 7, Mississippi 1
Long Beach State 9, New Mexico State 0, New Mexico State eliminated
Sunday, May 20
Game 6 — Long Beach State 0, Long Beach State eliminated

College lacrosse

NCAA Division I tournament

Opening Round
Wednesday, May 9
Robert Morris 12, LaCrosse 6
First Round
Saturday, May 12
Yale 15, Umass 13

Duke 17, Villanova 11
Albany (NY) 18, Richmond 9
Loyola (MD) 13, Virginia 9
Sunday, May 13
Maryland 14, Robert Morris 11
Denver 9, Notre Dame 7

Johns Hopkins 10, Georgetown 9, OT
Cornell 10, Syracuse 9
Quarterfinals
Saturday, May 19
At James M. Shuart Stadium
Hempstead, N.Y.

Yale 8, Loyola (MD) 5
Albany (NY) 15, Denver 13
Sunday, May 20
At Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium
Annapolis, Md.

Navy 13-9vs. (13-4)
Johns Hopkins (12-4) vs. Duke (14-3)
At Gillette Stadium
Foxborough, Mass.

Semifinals
Saturday, May 26
Maryland-Cornell winner vs. Johns Hopkins-Denver winner
Yale (15-3) vs. Albany (NY) (16-2)

Championship
Monday, May 27
Semifinal winners

AP spotlight

May 21
1981 — A small group of tennis club members meet at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City to form the world's first national governing body for tennis: the United States National Lawn Tennis Association. The new organization created to standardize tennis rules and regulations as well as to encourage and develop the sport.

1904 — The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is founded in Paris. FIFA is established to oversee international competition between national associations of Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

1922 — The first Curtis Cup is played at the Westwold Club at Virginia Water, Surrey, England. The United States beats England 5-2, 3-1. The first of four foursomes matches in the morning for the Curtis Cup.

1977 — Heavily favored Seattle Seahawks by 11½ lengths over Iron Con. Cheney win their singles matches in the afternoon for the win.

1979 — The Montreal Canadiens win the Stanley Cup by beating the New York Rangers 4-1 in Game 5.

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TERRY RENNA/AP

Martin Truex Jr. (78), Kurt Busch (41), Kyle Busch (18) and Brad Keselowski (6) try to get by during the NASCAR All-Star race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Saturday.

Harvick earns \$1M with All-Star win

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Nothing can stop Kevin Harvick these days, not an experimental rules package or a field of racers with nothing but pride on the line, and the hottest driver in NASCAR scored a \$1 million payday by winning the All-Star race.

Harvick's win Saturday night came exactly 11 years to the day of his only other win in Charlotte Motor Speedway's exhibition event. This time the victory is part of a raging hot streak that brought him into the All-Star race with five points race victories, including the last two.

It's technically three in a row now, although the All-Star race is for cash only. But the stat sheet shows that Harvick has won six of the 13 races since the season-opening Daytona 500, and Ford drivers have eight of those wins.

"Everything is going our way," Harvick said. "It's kind of a game at this particular point."

Because the All-Star race is a made-for-TV event, NASCAR could play with the rules and try to spice up a race that has been beyond boring the last 10 years. No amount of tinkering to the format or the rules could live the event, so NASCAR made a radical change this time. The aerodynamic package included a controversial horsepower-sapping restrictor plate, and it slowed the cars into a tighter pack that allowed for increased passing.

The package Saturday night did make for better racing, but the same result: Harvick celebrating again. This time it was the 50th Cup victory for Stewart-Haas Racing.

"A lot of pushing and shoving. It reminded me a lot of IROC racing back in the day," Harvick said, referring to the old all-star series that pitted champions from various series together in identically prepared cars. "We'll miss that everybody thinks and go

from there." NASCAR was cautiously optimistic after the race and hesitant to make too quick of a judgment despite the positive feelings after the experiment.

"From an eye-test, we were certainly pleased with what we saw," said NASCAR head of competition Steve O'Donnell, who led the lead changes Saturday night topped the last four years. O'Donnell made no promises as to what might come of the rules package, but also didn't rule out that it could be used again.

Drivers had mixed feelings on the package.

"I don't want to rate it every week, but every now and then is OK," said Kyle Larson.

Marcus Smith, president of Charlotte Motor Speedway and for NASCAR trying something radical, loved the end result.

"I thought it was the best racing we've seen at a mile-and-a-half track in years," said Smith, who added he'd wait for fan feedback before declaring if he wants it for next week's Coca-Cola 600.

"I'm a man of the fans. I want what the fans want."

As for the rules not changing the results, O'Donnell had a simple explanation. "At the end of the day, the best team and the best drivers are going to go out there and win, and we saw that tonight," he said.

Daniel Suarez won a stage in an earlier qualifying race to make the main event, and he finished second in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing. Suarez had one shot at trying to beat Harvick when the race went into overtime and he lined up next to Harvick on a restart with two extra laps ahead. Suarez got a push from teammate Danny Hamlin but he never could clear Harvick, and Harvick won by 0.325 seconds.

Joey Logano was third in a Ford for Team Penske and Hamlin was fourth.

AUTO RACING/HORSE RACING

Indianapolis 500

Helio, Danica moving on; Hinchcliffe gets bumped

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — IndyCar's marquee names turned a day of qualifying for the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing" into a throwback, nail-biting, bumping affair.

Helio Castroneves, seeking a redemptive record-tying fourth victory, was fastest around Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Danica Patrick was fast, too, and she averaged 227.610 mph to snag the ninth and final spot in the next round of qualifying, the Fast Nine. But this was a full field for the first time in years, and it meant two drivers weren't making next Sunday's show.

Never did the renewed bumping expect to be a threat to James Hinchcliffe, one of IndyCar's top drivers, a popular Canadian, and a celebrity from his stint as runner-up on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" show.

Add in this is the final Indy 500 on ABC, ending a partnership that started in 1965 and is second in sports only to CBS and the Masters. The network has been a strong partner for tiny IndyCar, and it helped turn Hinchcliffe and Castroneves into crossover stars.

And no one expected trouble for Pippa Mann, a perennial presence in the Indy 500. The British driver spends her entire year working to raise the money to run the Indy 500.

Yet after a day of bumping, it was Hinchcliffe and Mann who were surprisingly sidelined.

"It was devastating in every way possible," said Hinchcliffe, who is fifth in the IndyCar standings and a full-time series racer for an anchor team. "We came here with big expectations and high hopes. We didn't have Fast Nine speed but we didn't think we'd miss the race."

"It's Indy and we finally have bumping again and everyone was thrilled about it. Well, I'm a lot

less thrilled about it."

Hinchcliffe nearly lost his life at Indy in a 2015 crash in which he was pierced in an artery and would have bled to death if not for IndyCar's standard-setting medical staff. He missed the race that year, but otherwise is a staple of the series.

Mann is a one-off. Without her in the field, the Indy 500 will have just one woman, Patrick, at the time her return to American open wheel's crown jewel event is being celebrated. Patrick is retiring after this Indy 500, her first since 2011 after making the move to NASCAR. Back for the second leg of a farewell in "The Danica Double" she's bookedend Indy with the Daytona 500 on a two-race goodbye tour.

IndyCar president of competition and operations Jay Frye tells The Associated Press the series is not considering expanding the field for next Sunday's race.

"Should they just start everyone? To me, I'm definitely a traditionalist," said Ed Carpenter, son of George and the owner of Patrick's car. "As tough as it is to watch a guy like Hinch, who has had great moments here, really tough moments, I feel for him, I feel for Pippa. We've all worked very hard to be here. I really feel for them."

Frye says race rules do allow for driver changes, and each team is allowed to explore ways to perhaps purchase the seat from a driver who already has qualified for the race.

What happens with Hinchcliffe and Mann next is anyone's guess. Hinchcliffe has the sponsorship that could likely buy someone's seat. Mann needs a miracle in the field being expanded. Hinchcliffe understood options were being explored, but wasn't asking for favors.

"Nobody screwed us. The system didn't fail us. We failed us," Hinchcliffe said. "We just have to do better."



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

James Hinchcliffe reacts as time expires during qualifications for the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Saturday. Hinchcliffe failed to qualify for the race, which is next Sunday.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Justify, ridden by Mike Smith, wins the 143rd Preakness Stakes on Saturday in Baltimore.

Mud: Justify wins Preakness by half-length

FROM BACK PAGE

Just getting through the Preakness was a test for the Kentucky Derby champion and heavy 2-5 favorite. When Smith looked over his shoulder early and saw Good Magic he thought, "Oh man, it's going to be a match race from this point on," and Justify held up to the challenge down the backstretch and late as Bravazo and Tenfold chased him down.

"They tested his fitness today," Smith said after his second Preakness win and first since 1993. "This is his hardest race that he's had."

With Baffert praying for the wire at Pimlico, Justify won by a half-length after completing the race in 1:55.93. Bravazo edged Tenfold for third, and Good Magic was fourth.

"What I saw of it, I liked it a lot," said veteran D. Wayne Lukas, who trains Bravazo. "I want them to extend it another 50 yards. ... We ran at him. We kept him honest just like we said we would."

Good Magic pressed Justify so much, the Derby runner-up faded near the end of the 1 1/2-mile race and fell out of the money for the first time in his career.

"It just wasn't a good trip," Good Magic trainer Chad Brown said. "I would have liked to see a different scenario, maybe where we're just off the pace a little bit, we weren't getting pressed on the fence, the whole way. Disappointing."

That almost happened to Justify. Smith was worried when he saw Good Magic over his shoulder and when Justify slipped early, and he was hoping there was enough left to get to the wire.

Baffert tied Lukas' record with his 14th Triple Crown victory and matched 19th-century trainer R.W. Walden with his seventh Preakness title. Baffert also remained undefeated with Derby winners in the Preakness following Silver Charm, Real Quiet, War Emblem and American Pharoah. Justify, who paid \$2.80, \$2.80 and \$2.60 as the deserved favorite and improved to 5-0, showed

more evidence of being the same kind of super horse as American Pharoah, and Baffert has repeatedly drawn comparisons between them. Those will only continue assuming Justify is good to go for the Belmont in three weeks.

"He has to come out of the race well, and he's got to be training really well," Baffert said. "I did the same thing with American Pharoah, all my horses that ran the Triple Crown, they have to be 100 percent."

Justify looked every bit of 100 percent after a bruised heel in the Derby caused quite the firestorm. A bigger question now is how the lightly-raced colt who didn't run as a 2-year-old handles a mile and a half.

Had the Preakness been just a tenth of a mile longer, Justify might have been caught, though

Smith thought he had plenty of horse left.

"He withstood that, and even though he got tired today, he was also looking around a bit at the end," Smith said. "Although it was a half a length, I certainly could've got after him a whole lot more a little earlier and made him do a little more, as well."

Justify never had to work this hard to win a race, winning his first four starts by a combined 21 1/2 lengths. He didn't blow away the field of three Derby horses and four new challengers, but he showed something else.

"These great horses, they just define themselves when they get in that situation," Baffert said.

"He just showed not only is he a big, beautiful, gorgeous horse, but he is all racehorse, and that's what it took to win."

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MLB

Scoreboard

Dodgers 4, Nationals 1

First Game												
Los Angeles						Washington						
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi	ab
Pederson If	5	1	2	0	T.T.rrss ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blinger cf	4	0	0	1	Harper rf	4	0	1	1	0	0	0
J.T.rrss 3b	3	1	1	0	Rendon 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grandal c	2	1	1	0	M.Adams 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Kemp rf	4	0	0	0	Kodrick lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fields p	0	0	0	0	Stinson lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jensen p	0	0	0	0	M.Tyler c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muncy 1b	3	0	1	2	Difo 2b	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
C.Tyler ss	3	0	0	0	Kieboom c	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Forsythe 2b	2	0	0	0	Roark p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stripling p	2	0	0	0	Gott p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uley dh	0	0	0	0	MarYnn ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chirgiss p	0	0	0	0	C.Tress p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puig rf	1	0	0	0								
Totals	32	4	7	4	Totals	32	1	6	1	0	0	0

Los Angeles 4, Nationals 1
 E—Difo (5), DP—Washington 1, LOB—
 Los Angeles 6, Washington 4, 2B—Muncy
 (5), Forsythe (3), 3B—Pederson (3), 5B—
 M.Taylor (11), SF—Grandal (2), Muncy
 (2).

IP H R ER BB SO												
Los Angeles												
Stripling W-1	6	4	1	1	0	9						
Chirgiss H-4	1	2	0	0	0	1						
Fields H-4	1	0	0	0	0	1						
Jensen S-7-9	1	0	0	0	0	0						
Washington												
Gott L-4	7	6	3	3	1	8						
Roark	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Tress	0	0	0	0	0	0						

HBP—by Roark (Turner). T—300. A—
 26,740 (41,313).

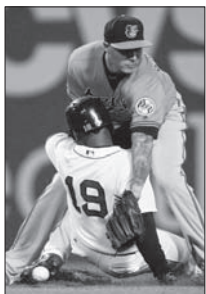
Dodgers 5, Nationals 4

Second Game												
Los Angeles						Washington						
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi	ab
Pederson If-rf	3	1	0	0	T.T.rrss ss	5	1	1	0	0	0	0
M.Kemp ph-rf	1	0	1	2	Difo 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muncy 3B-If	3	1	2	2	Harper rf	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
K.Hran ph-If	1	0	0	0	Rendon 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grandal 1b	5	0	0	0	MarYnn 1b	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Blinger cf	5	1	1	1	M.Tyler c	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
C.Tyler ss	4	1	1	0	P.Burns c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uley 2b	3	0	0	0	M.Adams ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McGraw p	0	0	0	0	Kieboom c	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hudson p	0	0	0	0	Scherzer p	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
P.Tress ph-3b	0	0	0	0	Soll p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puig rf	4	0	1	0	Kintzler p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goeddel p	0	0	0	0	Dillie p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K.Jensen p	0	0	0	0	A.Schultz p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Barnes c	4	1	2	0	Stinson If	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.Baez p	1	0	0	0								
Y.Garcia p	0	0	0	0								
Forsythe 2b	1	1	1	0								
Totals	36	5	10	5	Totals	31	4	4	4	0	0	0

Los Angeles 5, Nationals 4
 E—Muncy (2), DP—Los Angeles 1,
 Washington 2, LOB—Los Angeles 4,
 Washington 6, 2B—Pederson (6), M.Kemp
 (10), Puig (6), T.Tress (8), MarYnn (4),
 Goeddel (3), C.Tyler (4), 1B—Muncy (4),
 Blinger (7), 5B—Puig (5).

IP H R ER BB SO												
Los Angeles												
Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Anderson	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Baez	2	0	0	0	0	1						
Garcia	1/3	1	1	1	0	1						
Cigrang H-6	1	0	0	0	0	0						
Hudson S-1	1/2	2	0	0	0	0						
Goeddel W-3-0	1	0	0	0	0	0						
Jensen S-10	1	0	0	0	0	1						

Washington 4, Nationals 5
 S.H.G. 1/3, L.1-2 B.5, 1-3, 3-2, 2-2, 0-2
 Doolittle L-1.2 B.5, 1-3, 3-2, 2-2, 0-2
 R.Hill pitched to 0 batter in the 1st
 inning by Baez (Scherzer).
 (Harper). T—327. A—32,378 (41,313).



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Boston's Jackie Bradley Jr. advances to second base on a fly out by Mookie Betts as the **Orioles' Manny Machado** can't come up with the throw during the seventh inning on Saturday.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Nationals' Howie Kendrick is tagged out by Dodgers second baseman Logan Forsythe as he attempts to stretch a single into a double in the first game of a doubleheader at Nationals Park on Saturday in Washington. The Dodgers won the first game 4-1.

Roundup

Dodgers sweep DH from Nationals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Matt Kemp had a pinch-hit, two-run double in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers survived a sterling performance by Max Scherzer to beat the Washington Nationals 5-4 on Saturday night and sweep a day-night doubleheader.

Scherzer struck out 13 in seven innings, and Washington led 4-3 entering the ninth. But closer Sean Doolittle (1-2) allowed singles to Austin Barnes and Logan Forsythe, and Kemp then hit a line drive to the wall in left field to score them both.

Erik Goeddel (3-0) worked a scoreless eighth in his Dodgers debut after being acquired off waivers on Friday from Seattle Mariners. Kenley Jensen worked the ninth for his eighth save, and his second on the day.

The Dodgers used eight pitchers. Starter Rich Hill threw just two pitches before leaving with a recurrence of the blister on his left middle finger that has already put him on the disabled list twice this season.

In the first game, Ross Stripling (1-1) struck out a career-high nine in six strong innings, and Max Muncy drove in two runs as the Dodgers won 4-1.

Tanner Roark (2-4) took the loss for the Nationals, who lost left fielder Howie Kendrick for the season to a torn right Achilles tendon in the eighth inning.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 3: Mookie Betts and Andrew Benintendi hit consecutive home runs in the fifth inning, and host Boston beat Baltimore.

Benintendi added a two-run single and Rafael Devers a solo homer for the Red Sox, who won for the third time in four games and improved to 5-1 against Baltimore this season.

Mariners 7, Tigers 2: James Paxton threw a three-hitter in his second complete game in three starts, leading host Seattle past Detroit.

Paxton (3-1) struck out eight

and walked one in his second start since twirling a no-hitter two weeks ago against Toronto. This was his fifth straight start with at least six innings pitched and three or fewer runs allowed. He retired the final 15 batters he faced.

Jean Segura hit his third home run of the season and drove in three, while Dee Gordon had two RBIs. Ben Gamel also homered.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 4: Devin Mesoraco hit a tying, two-run homer through Citi Field's murky fog in the eighth inning.

Wilmer Flores hit a game-ending sacrifice fly in the ninth and host New York beat Arizona to win consecutive games for the first time in a month.

John Ryan Murphy hit a two-run homer and tied his career high with three RBIs, helping Arizona open a 4-2 lead. But Archie Bradley entered in the eighth and blew the lead in just three pitches, allowing a leadoff single to Jay Bruce and Mesoraco's third home run in 21 at-bats since the Mets acquired him from Cincinnati on May 8 for former ace Matt Harvey.

Braves 8, Marlins 1: Sean Newcomb pitched six strong innings to win his fourth straight start, Johan Camargo and Ozzie Albies each drove in two runs, and host Atlanta topped Miami.

Ender Inciarte went 3-for-4 and Freddie Freeman added a two-run homer in the eighth to help Atlanta win for the eighth time in 11 games and hold onto the NL's best record at 27-17.

Rays 5, Angels 3: Daniel Robertson hit his first career grand slam and visiting Tampa Bay held on after Mike Trout's ninth-inning homer for his sixth straight victory.

Sergio Romo made his first career start after 588 appearances as a reliever, striking out the side on 18 pitches in the first inning before being replaced by rookie left-hander Ryan Yarbrough — as Rays manager Kevin Cash intended. Yarbrough (4-2) gave up one

run, four hits and one walk in 6 1/2 effective innings. He struck out four during his unconventional stint as a long reliever.

Yankees 8, Royals 3: Gary Sanchez hit two of the visiting Yankees' five home runs, Cleyber Torres had a three-run shot and New York rebounded from a series-opening loss to pound Kansas City.

Aaron Hicks and Giancarlo Stanton also homered for the Yankees, while Luis Severino (7-1) scattered three runs on eight hits and two walks over six innings to run his unbeaten streak to seven. The right-hander is 5-0 with two no-decisions since losing to Boston on April 10.

Phillies 7, Cardinals 6: Odubel Herrera homered, extending his streak of reaching base to 45 consecutive games, and pinch-hitter Jorge Alfaro hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, sending visiting Philadelphia over St. Louis.

Indians 5, Astros 4: Corey Kluber struck out 10, Michael Brantley and Yan Gomes hit home runs and visiting Cleveland beat Houston.

The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner made his 22nd straight start of allowing no more than three earned runs, breaking the team record set by Sonny Siebert in 1965.

Kluber (7-2) gave up two runs — on Carlos Correa's eighth homer in the sixth — and six hits in seven innings. He walked none.

Reds 5, Cubs 4 (11; Cubs 10, Reds 0): Ian Happ hit his second home run of the doubleheader, Jason Heyward tied his career high with four RBIs and Jose Quintana allowed one hit in seven shutdown innings as visiting Chicago beat Cincinnati for a split.

Quintana (5-3) kept the Reds hitless through four innings before Scott Schebler singled cleanly with one out in the fifth. Quintana struck out seven and didn't allow a runner past first base.

In the first game, Billy Hamilton drew a bases-loaded walk

from Justin Wilson (1-1) while battling against a five-man, drawn-in infield with no outs in the 11th inning and the Reds outlasted the Cubs.

White Sox 5, Rangers 3: Jose Abreu homered and had three hits, Lucas Giloit tossed six effective innings and host Chicago rallied from an early deficit to beat Texas Rangers.

Daniel Palko added a two-run triple for Chicago, which won two of three.

Brewers 5, Twins 4: Christian Yelich broke a tie with a solo home run in the top of the eighth, Milwaukee's bullpen pitched five scoreless innings, and the Brewers beat host Minnesota to take the first two games of the three-game series.

The Brewers moved to 7-2 on their 10-game road trip with their latest come-from-behind victory.

Giants 9, Rockies 4: Brandon Crawford got three more hits and drove in four runs as host San Francisco ended a three-game skid by beating Colorado.

Crawford reached on a bloop single in the second inning, had a two-run double in the third and hit a two-run homer in the sixth. He is 31-for-69 (44%) in May.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 4: Chad Pinder hit his first career grand slam as visiting Oakland rallied with five runs in the eighth inning to beat Toronto.

Pinder's drive off Tyler Clippard (4-1) completed the Athletics' comeback from a 4-0 deficit.

Toronto has lost 11 of 14 at home, including five straight.

Padres 6, Pirates 2: Clayton Richard allowed two runs in 7 1/2 innings, Christian Villanueva homered and drove in two runs, and visiting San Diego beat Pittsburgh.

Richard (3-5) pitched into the eighth inning for a third straight start after allowing a combined five runs and 12 hits in his previous two. The left-hander gave up seven hits with two strikeouts, and had 65 strikes on 84 pitches.

NHL PLAYOFFS



JASON BENKEN/AP

Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy knocks the puck away as Washington Capitals center Evgeny Kuznetsov looks for a shot during the third period of Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals on Saturday in Tampa, Fla. The Lightning won 3-2.

Vasilevskiy shines, Lightning hold off Caps

By FRED GOODALL

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Lightning are on the brink of a return trip to the Stanley Cup Final.

Coach Jon Cooper and his players say it won't be easy to close the deal against the Washington Capitals.

"We haven't won anything yet," Cooper said Saturday night after Cedric Paquette scored in the opening minute and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 28 shots to help the Lightning hold off the Caps 3-2 in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference final.

Ondrej Palat and Ryan Callahan also scored as the home team won for the first time in the best-of-seven matchup, with Tampa Bay taking a 3-2 series lead and moving within one victory of advancing to the Stanley Cup Final for the second time in four seasons.

"Let's be honest," Cooper added. "You've got to get four, not three."

The Capitals, in the conference final for the first time in the Alex Ovechkin era, have lost three straight after winning twice on the road to begin the series.

Ovechkin scored with 1:36 remaining, trimming what once was a three-goal lead to one, however Vasilevskiy made three more saves to finish the victory.

Game 6 is Monday night in Washington, where Tampa Bay has already won to improve to 5-1 on the road this postseason.

"We have a lot of unfinished business. This isn't even close to being over," Callahan said. "This last game's definitely the hardest against a very, very good Washington team. To go in their building and try to close it out is going to be tough."

The Capitals were encouraged by the way they finished the game and are confident they can force the series back to Tampa for Game 7.

"This group has got its backs against the wall, and this group has responded all year," coach Barry Trotz said. "I don't expect anything different."

The Capitals won the first two games on the road, scoring 10 goals on Vezina Trophy finalist Vasilevskiy and sending the Lightning — who had the best record in the East during the regular season — into desperation mode.

Tampa Bay responded by winning Game 3 in Washington, evening the series despite being outshot and outplayed for sizeable stretches of a 4-2 victory in Game 4 and returning home, where Cooper was confident the Lightning would be better than they were in the first two games.

Turns out Cooper was right.

Washington's Dmitry Orlov turned the puck over in the neutral zone on the opening shift of the night and Callahan made the Caps pay for the mistake, feeding Paquette for a 1-0 lead just 19 seconds into the game.

Palat's second goal of the series made it 2-0. Tampa Bay extended the advantage to three

goals when Callahan scored 33 seconds into the second period.

Outshot 13-4 and limited to one scoring opportunity in the opening period, the Caps began to put some pressure on Vasilevskiy in the second.

Evgeny Kuznetsov scored a goal in his fourth straight game, giving him a franchise single-year, playoff-best 22 points (11 goals, 11 assists) and trimming Washington's deficit to 3-1 at 4:21 of the period.

The Capitals kept pressing in the third period, but didn't breakthrough against until Ovechkin scored his 11th goal this postseason.

"It's not frustrating," Ovechkin said. "Of course, when you lose a game you feel bad. We just had a bad start. We didn't handle the puck in the neutral zone. They got a lucky bounce and put in the first goal. That gave them momentum."

"It's disappointing, but I thought our second two periods were great," Capitals winger T.J. Oshie said. "We showed a lot of character. Character doesn't always win you games, but I think it's going to be important to have that feeling going into Game 6 at home."

Notes: The road team won each of the first four games of a series for the sixth time in the last 10 years and 26th time in Stanley Cup playoffs history. Under that scenario, the road team has won Game 5 only three times. ... Paquette's goal was his first in the playoffs since Game 3 of the 2015 Stanley Cup Final.

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Tampa Bay 3, Washington 2, Washington 4, Tampa Bay 2

Washington 6, Tampa Bay 2

Tampa Bay 4, Washington 2

Tampa Bay 4, Washington 2

Saturday: Tampa Bay 3, Washington 2

Monday: at Washington, **AFN-Sports2**

2 a.m. **Tuesday** CET: 9 a.m. **Tuesday, JKT.**

x-Wednesday: at Tampa Bay

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Vegas 3, Winnipeg 1

Winnipeg 4, Vegas 2

Vegas 3, Winnipeg 1

Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2

Vegas 3, Winnipeg 2

Sunday: at Winnipeg

x-Tuesday: at Vegas

x-Thursday: at Winnipeg

Saturday

Lightning 3, Capitals 2

Washington 0 1 1-2

Tampa Bay 2 1 0-3

First Period—1. Tampa Bay, Paquette

1 (Callahan), 0:19, 2. Tampa Bay, Palat

6 (Kuchеров), 5:04.

Second Period—3. Tampa Bay, Callahan

2 (Stralman, Kunitz), 9:35, 4. Washington, Kuznetsov 11 (Oshie, Niskanen), 4:21.

Third Period—5. Washington, Ovechkin 11 (Carlson, Eller), 18:24.

Shots on Goal—Washington 4-13-13—30, Tampa Bay 13-5-4—22.

Power-play opportunities—Washington 0 of 0; Tampa Bay 0 of 1.

Goals—Washington, Holtby 10-6 (22 shots; 19 saves), Tampa Bay, Vasilevskiy 11-4 (30-28).

A—19,092 (19,092), **T**—2,228.

NBA PLAYOFFS

LeBron, Cavs pound Celtics in Game 3

Boston falls to 1-5 on road this postseason

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Before taking the floor, LeBron James stood in the hallway with his teammates outside Cleveland's locker room and pounded his chest with both hands.

The Celtics got thumped next. James had 27 points and 12 assists, Kevin Love added 14 rebounds and the Cavaliers looked like a different team on their home court, tightening the Eastern Conference finals with a 116-86 victory in Game 3 over Boston on Saturday night.

Outplayed during two losses in Boston, the Cavs used a three-day break in the series to regroup and re-grip this series. With James leading the way, they built a 19-point lead in the first quarter, pushed it to 30 in the second half and overpowered the Celtics, who fell to 1-5 on the road in the postseason.

Any discussion of Cleveland's demise is premature. Kyle Korver made four of the team's 17 three-pointers, six players scored in double figures and the Cavs, who have spent the season seeking chemistry and cohesion, were confident defensively.

"Even when things broke down, we just covered for one another," James said. "We made them make extra passes. We made them make extra dribbles. We were flying around, and I just

‘It was three days of stewing on Game 2. It probably did something good in us.’

Kyle Korver
Cavaliers forward

happened to be one of the guys on the floor that wanted to fly around as well."

Game 4 is Monday night before the series returns to Boston.

Jaylen Brown was in foul trouble all night and scored just 10 for the Celtics after averaging 23 in the first two games. Jayson Tatum scored 18 and Terry Rozier 13 for Boston, which couldn't match Cleveland in any aspect.

"They took it to us," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "Point blank: They just outplayed us."

Only 19 of a possible 300 teams have ever overcome a 2-0 deficit in the playoffs. James and the Cavs, who previously did it in 2007 and again in 2016 while winning the NBA title, took the first step toward a third comeback.

To return to the NBA Finals for the fourth straight year, the Cavs have to win four of five and re-write Boston's illustrious history. The Celtics are 37-0 when they win the first two games in a series.

The Cavs came in wanting to play faster and be more physical with the younger Celtics, who were the aggressors in Games 1 and 2.

Not this time.

"The toughest team sets the rules," Rozier said. "They came out aggressive from the jump and never looked back. We've got to play aggressive from the rip. Tonight, we have all over the place, playing too fast and doing things we didn't want to do."

The Cavs needed more from point guard George Hill after two poor performances (8 points, 1 assist) in Boston. Hill responded with a driving layup to start the game and drained three three-pointers in the first quarter as Cleveland wasted no time taking control.

Hill finished with 13, J.R. Smith 11 — they were outscored 41-3 in Game 2 — and Cleveland's supporting cast played so well that James was only on the floor for 37 minutes.

Stevens was confident his team would play better on the road than earlier in these playoffs, but the Celtics were shaky early, committing four turnovers and shooting 2-for-10 while the Cavs opened a 27-11 lead.

James said earlier Saturday the fact he has twice rallied from 2-0 deficits in the postseason offered no relief.

"There's nothing about the playoffs that's comfortable until you either win it all or you lose and go into the summer," he said. Summer never isn't be as close as it once seemed.



TONY DEJAN/AP

The Cavaliers' LeBron James shoots against the Boston Celtics during Saturday's Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals in Cleveland. James had 27 points and 12 assists in the Cavaliers' 116-86 victory.

Down Brown: The Cavs focused their defense on slowing Brown, and it worked. He was 3-for-8 from the floor and never found his flow after getting two early fouls.

"They were denying me the ball, and when I did get it, it was in positions that I'm not comfortable in," he said. "Give credit to Cleveland. They were physical and we settled for jumpers too much."

Road kill: Before the game, Stevens downplayed his team's road issues, saying there was a "small sample size."

It got a little bigger, and a little more troubling. Still, he won't focus on Boston's road woes.

"In my 11 years as a head coach, I probably haven't talked about road and home five times with our team," he said. "It's about how you play between the lines. Because I think if you start

talking about that, then you find excuses in both places. We can't play like we played tonight no matter where we played. If we would have played in Boston like that, we would have gotten beat."

Family ties: Stevens has deep Cleveland roots, but he's slowly converting family members to pull for Boston's teams.

His parents are from North-east Ohio and his wife, Tracy, is from suburban Rocky River. Before the game, Stevens was asked what happens to all the Cavs, Browns and Cavaliers gear he gets as gifts.

"Yeah, we have a large contingent [of Cleveland fans]," he said.

"Maybe they'll get some of those (Game 3 giveaway) yellow shirts and pass them around to some people who haven't completely converted to rooting for the Celtics yet."

Tip-ins

Celtics: Seeking to become the sixth No. 2 seed to win the East in eight years. Boston was a No. 4 seed when it advanced to the finals in 2010. ... Fell to 3-8 in playoff games in Cleveland, the most by a Cavs opponent at the Q.

... Stevens was relieved to learn that Boston legend Bill Russell was recovering after a hospital stay brought on by dehydration. Russell won 11 NBA titles with the Celtics. "He's the ultimate basketball winner," Stevens said. "The way he impacted winning, the unselfishness of a teammate, what he stood for off the floor — everything about him."

Cavaliers: James needs six field goals to surpass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (2,356) for the most in postseason history. ... Cleveland has won six straight playoff games at home.

Conference finals

Boston 2, Cleveland 1
Boston 108, Cleveland 83
Boston 107, Cleveland 94
Saturday Cleveland 116, Boston 86
Monday: at Cleveland. **AFN-Sports:** 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, CET; 9:30 a.m., JKT.
Wednesday: at Boston. **AFN-Sports:** 2:30 a.m. Thursday, CET; 9:30 a.m., JKT.
x-Saturday, May 25: at Cleveland. **AFN-Sports:** 2:30 a.m. Saturday, CET; 9:30 a.m., JKT.

Golden State 1, Houston 1
Golden State 119, Houston 106
Golden State 116, Houston 103
Sunday: at Golden State
Tuesday: at Golden State. **AFN-Sports:** 3 a.m. Wednesday, CET; 10 a.m. Wednesday, JKT.
Thursday: at Houston. **AFN-Sports:** 3 a.m. Friday, CET; 10 a.m. Friday, JKT.
x-Saturday, May 26: at Houston. **AFN-Sports:** 2:30 a.m. Saturday, CET; 9:30 a.m., JKT.
x-Monday, May 28: at Houston

Saturday

Cavaliers 116, Celtics 86

BOSTON — Tatum 6-10 6-8 18, Morris 2-8 4-8, Horford 2-4 2-2 7, Rozier 5-12 2-2 13, Brown 3-8 2-2 10, Ojeleye 1-5 0-0 2, Nader 1-5 0-0 2, Yabusele 0-1 1-2 1, Baynes 3-7 6-8 10, Monroe 2-4 10, Smart 2-9 3-4 1. Totals: 29-52 28-58 100.

CLEVELAND — James 8-12 8-10 27, Love 4-12 4-13, Thompson 3-5 4-10, Hill 4-11 2-4 13, Smith 3-8 2-2 11, Green 2-4 2-2 6, Clarkson 3-10 0-0 10, Leard 0-0 0-0 0, Clarkson 3-11 0-0 10, Korver 5-5 0-0 14. Totals: 37-76 22-40 115.

Boston 17 24 22 23-86
25 32 29 26 29-116
Three-Point Goals—Boston 6-22 (Brown 2-3, Baynes 1-1, Horford 1-2, Morris 1-3, Rozier 1-4, Yabusele 0-1, Nader 0-1, Tatum 0-1, Ojeleye 0-2, Smart 0-4), Cleveland 17-34 (Hill 4-10, James 3-8, Smith 3-4, Clarkson 3-7, Hill 3-9, Love 1-4, Calderon 0-1, Green 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 34 (Horford 7, Cleveland 45 (Love 14). Assists—Boston 15 (Smart 5), Cleveland 23 (James 12). Total Fouls—Boston 25, Cleveland 23. Technicals—Morris: A—20.52 (20.52).

SPORTS



Million dollar man

Harvick takes home big prize in NASCAR All-Star race » **Page 26**

HORSE RACING

Justify wins Preakness

Favorite emerges from fog and mud with Triple Crown bid intact

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

JUSTIFY rounded the final turn and hit the top of the stretch winded but with the lead.

The roar from the crowd was delayed, hushed by the thick fog that enveloped the track. When Justify emerged from the haze in view of the grandstand, trainer Bob Baffert could see jockey Mike

‘Right now, I don’t see why not.’

On whether Justify has a chance at the Belmont Stakes in New York on June 9.

Bob Baffert

Smith’s white silks and knew his horse had been pushed to his limit with 100 yards left to go.

“I knew he was in for a fight,”

Baffert said. “I knew this was

not going to be easy.”

It wasn’t easy, but Justify had enough left to hold off several hard-charging challengers and win the Preakness on a sloppy, slippery

track Saturday and keep alive the chance for a second Triple Crown champion in four years. After winning the most difficult race of his career, Justify has the chance at the Belmont Stakes in New York on June 9 to accomplish the same rare feat Baffert’s American Pharoah did in 2015.

“We’ll see how he trains,” Baffert said. “Right now, I don’t see why not.”

SEE MUD ON
PAGE 27

Justify, right, with Mike Smith atop, wins the 143rd Preakness Stakes in Baltimore.

STEVE HILBER/AP



Cavaliers bounce back with dominating Game 3 victory over Celtics » **Page 31**

Lightning put Caps on brink of elimination with third consecutive win » **Page 30**

